

ISRAEL: PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE

Though it is logical to believe that the Prophetic Scriptures would be fulfilled, it is thrilling to see them being fulfilled right before our eyes in the days in which we live. About 1500 years before it came to pass, the Bible predicted that the Jews would be scattered all over the face of the earth. This was literally fulfilled. The Bible also predicted that the Jews would be preserved for thousands of years after they were scattered, and that they would be re-gathered in the land of Canaan in the last days. We are now witnessing the beginning of the fulfillment of these Scriptures.

The holy prophets foretold the first coming of Christ, and every detail of their prophecies were fulfilled, to the most minute detail, in a literal way. The same prophets also prophesied that Jesus would come again in the last days. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect these prophecies to be fulfilled in the same literal manner.

Not only does the Bible tell us that the Lord Jesus Christ is coming again, but it also gives us many signs that let us know that His coming is drawing near. Jesus said, "When these things begin to come to pass, then lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (*Luke 21:28*).

A companion book to this one, *Seventy Scriptural Signs That Indicate That Jesus Is Coming Soon*, compares current events with 70 of the signs that are given in the Bible. In *Israel: Past, Present, and Future* we limit our discussion to signs that are related to the Nation of Israel. The signs concerning Israel are in many respects the most interesting of all of the signs that are given in the Bible.

Jesus said, "Now learn a parable of the fig tree: When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that the summer is nigh: so likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the door" (*Matthew 24:32, 33*).

Israel is referred to as "the fig tree" many times in the Bible. God said, "I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the firstripe in the fig tree at her first time" (*Hosea 9:10*). When God sent judgment on Israel through other nations, He referred

to it as “barking my fig tree” (*Joel 1:7*). Jesus used the fig tree to picture Israel as having leaves but not having fruit (*Mark 11:13*). He gives a parable of a fig tree which was planted in His vineyard (*Luke 13:6*): the vineyard is Israel (*Isaiah 5:7*).

No truth of the Holy Scriptures is revealed more clearly than the Second Coming of Christ. The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus will come the second time, personally, literally, visibly and bodily to rule and to reign on the earth for a thousand years. What comfort it is to know that Jesus is coming again! To a world that is torn by war and strife, He will come as the Prince of Peace. “He shall judge among the nations and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plow-shares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (*Isaiah 2:4*). “He shall not judge after the sight of His eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of His ears: but with righteousness shall He judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips shall He smite the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’s den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea” (*Isaiah 11:3-9*).

Israel in the Past

A Brief History of the Nation of Israel From Its Birth To Their Scattering Among The Nations

To give us perspective, and to help us understand the prophecies concerning their future, it will be profitable for us to study briefly the history of Israel as a nation. The history of Israel began about 2,000 B. C. when God called Abraham in Ur of the Chaldees and said unto him, "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (*Genesis 12:1-3*).

Jacob (Israel), Abraham's grandson, had twelve sons from whom sprang the twelve tribes of the Children of Israel. Because of a severe famine in the land of Canaan, Jacob and all of his sons went down into the land of Egypt. During the four hundred years that they were in Egypt they grew into a nation of nearly three million people. God raised up Moses to lead them out of Egypt, and to bring them back into the land of Canaan, but instead of obeying God and going into Canaan they turned aside and spent forty years wandering in the Arabian desert. In 1451 B. C., Joshua led them into the land of Canaan. Though it was the purpose of God for them to utterly annihilate their enemies, they failed to do so.

As a result, the nations became thorns in their side. Israel was under the leadership of various judges for a period of about 450 years (*Acts 13:20*). Saul became their first king in 1095 B. C. King David began to reign around 1000 B. C. The kingdom was divided during the reign of Rehoboam in 975 B. C. Two hundred and fifty-four years later because of their wickedness and idolatry, Israel (or the northern ten tribes) was carried away into captivity by the Assyrians. In the year 600 B. C., or a hundred and twenty years later, Judah (the southern two tribes) was carried away captive into Babylon.

Three groups of Jews returned from Babylon to Judea. The first return was made in 536 B. C. under the leader-

ship of Zerubbabel. Seventy-eight years later Ezra led back another group to rebuild the Temple. Fourteen years later Nehemiah brought back the third group and rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem.

With the close of the Old Testament Canon of Scriptures we have the beginning of four hundred silent years. They are called "silent years" because during this period no prophetic utterance was given. It was during that time that the Apocryphal books of the Old Testament were written.

In 63 B. C. the Jewish nation became a Roman satellite, and the Romans called the land Judea. In 40 B. C. the Roman Emperor, Mark Antony, made Herod King over Judea. In 17 B. C. Herod built the magnificent temple that stood in the city of Jerusalem during the life of Jesus.

The Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross in the year 33 A. D., and with His death, burial, resurrection, and with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost the Christian church was established.

The city of Jerusalem was destroyed by Titus the Roman general in 70 A. D., and at this time literally tens of thousands of the Jews were sold as slaves and were scattered over the face of the earth. In A. D. 132 about a half million Jews revolted against the Romans under the leadership of Ben Kuchba. At this time most of the Jews were either killed or were scattered from the land of Judea. Also at this time the Romans changed the name of the land of Judea to Palestine in honor of the Philistines, the ancient enemies of the Jews.

Old Testament Prophecies And Promises That God Made To Israel

Shortly before the Children of Israel returned to the land of Canaan, after spending 400 years as slaves in the land of Egypt, God made a covenant with them that is commonly called the Palestinian Covenant. This covenant, like the Abrahamic Covenant, is an unconditional covenant of grace, the fulfillment of which depends on the faithfulness of God rather than on the obedience of Israel. The basic elements of this covenant are stated in Deuteronomy 30:1-10. Since each of the four major covenants that are related primarily to the fulfillment of the prophetic Scriptures is discussed in our booklet

The Significance of the Believer's Attitude Toward the Second Coming of Christ in Faith and Conduct, we will not give a detailed discussion of the Palestinian Covenant at this time. However, it is of the greatest importance to recognize that secondary conditions and provisions stated in this covenant in no wise abrogate the primary provision of the unconditional covenant, the fulfillment of which depends entirely on the grace of God.

In His omniscience God recognizes that the Jews will be rebellious and disobedient, and that because of this disobedience He will scatter them over all the face of the earth, but regardless of their disobedience, God promises them that He will regather them and bring them again into their own land.

God said to Israel something like this, "If you are good, I will bless you, but if you are bad, I will curse you. If you obey me and do my will, I will bless you in the land which I have given to your fathers, but if you disobey me, I will scatter you all over the face of the earth. But even then, if you will hear my voice, and return to me I will gather you from all the nations where I have scattered you."

Let us verify this summarization with some direct quotations from the Scriptures, "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth" (*Deut. 28:1*). "But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee" (*Deut. 28:15*).

Notice carefully the words of God's warning to Israel at this time, for as we study the history of Israel we shall see how literally they have been fulfilled. God warned them, "And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the Lord shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing eyes, and sorrow of mind: and thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shall have none assurance of life: in the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the sight of

thine eyes which thou shalt see. And the Lord shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you" (*Deut. 28:65-68*).

But God will not forsake His people even though they have turned their back on Him. He made an unconditional covenant with Abraham their father; He must and will keep it (*Gen. 12:1-3*). Therefore God gave them this promise, "And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath driven thee, and shalt return unto the Lord thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; that then the Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee. If any of thine be driven unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the Lord thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee: and the Lord thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers" (*Deut. 30:1-5*).

We see the tenderness of God as He pleads with Israel, "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live" (*Deut. 30:19*). God told Israel if they would obey Him He would bless them and set them on high above all nations on the face of the earth (*Deut. 28:1*). He also told them that if they were disobedient and rebelled against Him that He would scatter them all over the face of the earth (*Deut. 28:64*). It is a matter of historical record how the prophecies concerning the scattering of Israel have been literally fulfilled. In these intervening centuries there has not been a nation upon the earth where the Jew cannot be found. Since the year 132 A. D., they have been scattered over all the face of the earth without having a home land of their own.

The Old Testament contains far more prophecies about

the regathering of Israel than it does about their scattering. Since the Scriptures that prophesied Israel's scattering were literally fulfilled, it is logical to believe that the Scriptures about their regathering will also be literally fulfilled.

Prophecies Concerning the Regathering of Israel

We have seen that a short time before God brought the Nation of Israel into the land of Canaan, He gave them these promises, "The Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations where the Lord thy God hath scattered thee. If any of thine be driven out into the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the Lord thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee: And the Lord thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers" (*Deuteronomy 30:3-5*).

If these were the only promises in the Bible concerning the regathering of Israel, these words given by God Himself should be sufficient to cause us to believe that He would keep His word to Israel, and that He would bring them back into their own land. However, A-millennial scholars tell us that the Abrahamic and Palestinian Covenants were conditioned on the obedience of Abraham, and on the obedience of his seed. These scholars reason that since both Abraham and his seed were disobedient in many instances, the covenants are broken, and that God is not honor bound to keep His part of the covenant in restoring Israel to their own land. Since we discuss this question at length in our booklet, *The Significance of the Believer's Attitude Toward the Second Coming of Christ*, we will not discuss it here.

At this point, I wish to quote in detail thirty references from Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and from the Minor Prophets where God promises Israel that He will regather them to the land of Canaan and that He will give the land of Canaan to them. These promises were made hundreds of years after the Abrahamic and Palestinian Covenants, and they were made after Israel had proved herself to be disobedient and rebellious for hundreds of years. Why did God make these promises? Because Israel

deserved to be restored to her land? Certainly not! But God made these promises because He had made an unconditional covenant with Abraham, and as a God of truth He must keep His Word. God not only gave His Word, but He confirmed it by an oath (*Hebrew 6:16, 17*). The Scriptures that you are about to read are a confirmation of the unconditional Abrahamic and Palestinian Covenants. If the words of the prophets that you are about to read do not mean what they say, they have no meaning, and is it not strange that God would have uttered meaningless words, and that He would have had them recorded in the Holy Scriptures?

What Isaiah Has To Say About The Regathering of Israel

Let the Spirit of God speak to your heart as you prayerfully read the following Scriptures. "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth" (*Isaiah 11:11, 12*).

"For the Lord will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob. And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the LORD for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors. And it shall come to pass in the day that the Lord shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve" (*Isaiah 14:1-3*).

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall beat off from the channel of the river unto the stream of Egypt, and ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they

shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem" (*Isaiah 27:12, 13*).

"But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honorable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life. Fear not; for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west: I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, and have formed him; yea, I have made him" (*Isaiah 43:1-7*).

- *What the Spirit of God Through Jeremiah Had to Say About the Regathering of Israel*

"Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that it shall no more be said, The Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The Lord liveth that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers. Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the Lord, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks" (*Jeremiah 16:14-16*).

"I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be

dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord. Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; but, The Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land" (*Jer. 23:3-8*).

"And I will be found of you, saith the Lord: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the Lord; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive" (*Jer. 29:14*).

"Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the Lord; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid. For I am with thee, saith the Lord, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee; but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished" (*Jeremiah 30:10, 11*).

"Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither. They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock" (*Jeremiah 31:8-10*).

"Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my

fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: And they shall be my people, and I will be their God" (*Jeremiah 32:37, 38*).

*What the Spirit of God Through Ezekiel
Had to Say About the Regathering of Israel*

"Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord God; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel" (*Ezekiel 11:17*).

"And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out" (*Ezekiel 20:34*).

"I will accept you with your sweet savor, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen. And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers" (*Ezekiel 20:41-42*).

"For thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country" (*Ezekiel 34:11-13*).

"For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land" (*Ezekiel 36:24*).

"And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God" (*Ezekiel 36:28*).

"Thus saith the Lord God; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded. And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay

desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the Lord build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the Lord have spoken it, and I will do it. Thus saith the Lord God; I will yet for this be inquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock. As the holy flock, as the flock of Jerusalem in her solemn feasts; so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of men: and they shall know that I am the Lord" (*Ezekiel 36:33-38*).

Valley of Dry Bones

The prophet Ezekiel had an amazing vision concerning Israel. He describes it in this way: "The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, and caused me to pass by them round about; and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and lo, they were very dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: and I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord. So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceeding great army. Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of

Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, and shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord" (*Ezekiel 37:1-14*).

"And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: and I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all" (*Ezekiel 37:21, 22*).

"Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Now I will bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name; after that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made them afraid. When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there" (*Ezekiel 39:25-28*).

What the Minor Prophets Had to Say About the Regathering of Israel

"Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living

God. Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great shall be the day of Jezreel" (*Hosea 1:10, 11*).

"And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God" (*Amos 9:14, 15*).

"But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it. For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever. In that day, saith the Lord, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted; And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever" (*Micah 4:4-7*).

"I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden. Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame. At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the Lord" (*Zephaniah 3:18-20*).

"Thus saith the Lord of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; If it be marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvelous in mine eyes? saith the Lord of hosts. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem:

and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness" (*Zechariah 8:4-8*).

Believe or Spiritualize

I have quoted these many references so that I might ask three questions. (1) If these verses do not mean what they say, what do they mean? (2) If we spiritualize these verses, what is their meaning? (3) If we are not to take them in a literal sense, why did the Holy Spirit through Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Zephaniah, and Zechariah repeatedly give these promises that Israel would be restored to their own land?

Dear Christian friend, do not be led astray by sincere, but misguided men who may be your spiritual leaders. Present day theology teaches that we are not to take these prophecies literally. We are told that we are not to expect these prophecies to be fulfilled. We are told that all of these promises that God made to Israel are being fulfilled in a spiritual sense to the Church, spiritual Israel.

What folly! Do not let any man, regardless of his high ecclesiastical position, or regardless of his professed wisdom, do your thinking for you. Read these Scriptures prayerfully. Let the Holy Spirit speak to your heart, and He will make it clear to you that God says what He means, and means what He says. That these Scriptures are being fulfilled in a literal sense right before our eyes is verification of the fact that God intends that we should accept them in a literal sense. All of the prophecies concerning the scattering of Israel were literally fulfilled. With the second rebellion of the Jews under Ben Kuchba in 132 A.D. the Romans scattered the surviving Jews throughout the Roman Empire to make sure that the rebellion would not break out again. At that time the slave markets of the world were glutted with Jews. The Jews cried, "Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts" (*Ezekiel 37:11*).

Read again Deuteronomy 28:64-68 to see what God said would happen to them, and then read their history and see how this has been literally fulfilled. It is remarkable!

For centuries the prophecies concerning the regathering of Israel lay dormant in the Word of God. There was no outward indication that they would be fulfilled, but they are now being fulfilled before our eyes, and this can mean but one thing: THE COMING OF THE LORD DRAWS NEAR.

Before we study how these prophecies are being remarkably fulfilled right in our own day, it will be well for us to study a brief summary of what has happened to the Jews after they were scattered up to the present time.

*A Summary of the History of Israel
From Their Scattering to Their
Rebirth as a Nation*

It would be logical to assume that the Jews would have been assimilated by the various nations where they were scattered. Not so! The Jews kept their identity as a distinctive people. They kept their own God-given religion. Nation after nation tried to destroy them. The nations which tried this failed and faced the judgment of God. Other nations have come and gone, but because the Jews are the chosen people of God they are indestructible.

A small Jewish population continued in the land of Palestine for about four hundred years. Then from that time until the present day only a handful of Jews could be found in the land at any given time. For centuries the Moslems refused to permit any Jews to live in the city of Jerusalem.

From the time of the Babylonian captivity (600 B.C.) Babylon had been a refuge for the Jews. In the first and second century Jews began to flock there in large numbers, and it is estimated that there were two million Jews in Babylon by the year 200 A. D.

When Constantine made Christianity a free religion in the Roman Empire in 313 A.D., there were many large and wealthy Jewish communities in Europe. During the fifth and sixth centuries restrictions were placed on the Jews, and they were forbidden to hold public office. Many Jewish communities were attacked and thousands of Jews were killed.

When Mohammed founded Islam (622 A.D.) he expected the Jews of Arabia to join in his new religion because he had taken so much of it from theirs. When they refused

to do this, he killed most of the Jews in Arabia.

Islam swept like a plague across North Africa, through Eastern Europe, through Spain, and would have engulfed all of Europe had the Moslem hordes not been turned back by Charles Martel at the Battle of Tours in 732 A.D. During the seventh century the Christians had driven the Jews from Spain, but with the Moslem conquest, the Jews flocked back to Spain, and for several centuries prospered there.

The ninth, tenth, and eleventh centuries were on the whole an era of peace and freedom for the Jews in Europe. The first Crusade began in the eleventh century with the avowed purpose of taking the Holy Land from the Moslems, and returning it to the Christians. The Crusades turned out to be as much against the Jews of Europe as against the Moslems in the Holy Land. As the Crusaders marched they raised the cry, "Why go to the land of Palestine to kill the enemies of God? Kill a Jew and save your soul." At that time literally hundreds of thousands of Jews were killed in the name of the Christian religion.

In the year of 1298 a great wave of persecution against the Jews swept Europe and hundreds of thousands of Jews were killed. In 1350, the Black Plague swept throughout Europe killing 25 million people or one fourth of the population of Europe. Though Jews and Gentiles both alike died in this plague, the blame for the plague was placed on the Jews, and half of the Jews in Europe were murdered at that time.

In 1411, the Roman Catholic church instituted the Inquisition, and tens of thousands of Jews were tortured on the rack, and many thousands were put to death. During this time Jews were scarcely regarded as human beings.

In the days of the Russian czars there were an estimated five million Jews in Russia. Fierce pogroms (mass violence against the Jews) broke out, and tens of thousands of Jews died, and hundreds of thousands escaped, most of them to the United States. In 1881, Alexander III, the head of the Russian Church, publicly stated the Russian policy toward the Jews to be: One third to die, one third to be forced to emigrate, and one third to join the Russian church. Other governments endeavored to intercede, but the Russians replied that the Jews had brought their troubles on themselves.

Centuries ago God told His people, "And the Lord shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone. And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the Lord shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing eyes, and sorrow of mind: and thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life: in the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see. And the Lord shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you" (*Deut. 28:64-68*). How literally this prophecy was fulfilled! Not only does our God know the end from the beginning, He also works all things after the counsel of His own will (*Eph. 1:11*).

Zionism Is Born

In the midst of fierce persecutions, in 1897, at the call of Theodore Herzl, the first Zionist Congress was assembled in Basle, Switzerland. In that year several hundred Jews formed the First Aliyah. By bribing Turkish officials at Jaffa they were able to enter Palestine, and to establish an agricultural colony. Hard work, malaria, and attacks by the Arabs sent many of the young idealists to their graves or back to Russia.

The Jews began to make plans to make the land of Palestine a homeland for the Jews scattered all over the world. The first stage was to establish a bridgehead in the enemy territory held by the Arabs. The second stage of their plan was to get the land under the control of a friendly power who would be sympathetic to the return of the Jews. The third stage was to see the control of the land passed into the hands of Israel itself.

During World War I, the Jews suffered much. They

were in the battle zones of Eastern Europe which were overrun first by one army, then by the other. As the Russians advanced, Jews in the occupied areas were treated as spies and many were sent to Siberia. The advance of the Russian armies was accompanied by pogroms which caused the Jews to flee in terror. Pogroms took place in Poland, Rumania, and Hungary. In the Ukraine alone over twelve hundred pogroms took place.

During the war, Great Britain was in a desperate plight because of the shortage of gun powder. Up until this time gun powder had been made from nitrates that were taken from mines in Chile, South America. But with German submarines controlling the sea lanes, Britain was unable to obtain the raw material necessary for the making of gun powder. At this time, Chaim Weizmann, a brilliant Jewish scientist, discovered how to make gun powder from nitrogen that was taken from the air. (Eighty percent of the air we breathe is nitrogen.)

The Balfour Declaration

To express their appreciation to Chaim Weizmann for what he had done the British government passed the famous Balfour Declaration, which reads as follows:

“His Majesty’s Government views with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this objective, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.”

In June of 1917, David Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister, brought General Edmund Allenby from France to England and placed him in command of the British Armies in the Near East. Before Allenby left England to take up his new command, the Prime Minister told him that he wanted Jerusalem for a Christmas present for the British Nation. This seemed to be an impossible request, for the land of Palestine had been

in Moslem hands for six centuries. But God was in it, and on December 11, 1917, without firing a shot General Allenby took the city of Jerusalem from the Turks.

After World War I, the League of Nations gave Great Britain the Mandate for controlling the land of Palestine. At first there was a period of Jewish-Arab co-operation, but as Jews began to return to Palestine in ever increasing numbers strife and discord was created. The first serious trouble developed in 1928 when a hundred and twenty-three Jews were killed and a hundred and fifty-three were wounded. Again, in April 1936, many Jews were killed.

World War II

Most of the Jews in the world were living in eastern Europe at the outbreak of World War II, and about half a million of these were living in Germany. It was Hitler's avowed aim not only to exterminate all of the German Jews, but to kill all of the Jews in Europe. His reign of terror, in which five to six million Jews were killed, is one of the blackest pages in human history.

At the close of World War II tens of thousand of Jews clamored to enter Palestine, but Great Britain, eager to avoid serious trouble between the Jews and the Arabs, refused to give them permission to enter.

In September of 1945, the United States began taking a direct hand in this situation, and President Truman requested the British to admit one hundred thousand refugees to Palestine. This the new labor government—pro-Zionist before it came to power—refused to do. Jewish terrorists and Arabs began open warfare in Palestine. In most cases the British, who could have easily maintained order, merely watched as Arab bands roamed the countryside committing murder, arson, robbery, attacking convoys in route to Jewish settlements, killing drivers and passengers.

During this time 70,000 Arabs and 80,000 Jews carried on sporadic warfare for four months in the city of Haifa. Before the Jewish and Arab leaders could meet to sign a truce, the Grand Mufti in Jerusalem ordered all Arabs to leave the city of Haifa.

Israel in the Present

Though it is easy to define the past and the future, it is not so easy to mark off what we mean by "the present." Actually "the present" is that brief moment between the past and the future. In this discussion we shall largely use "the present" as referring to that period of time between the founding of the Nation of Israel in 1948 and the Rapture of the Church.

Eleven Remarkable Signs of the Times That Are Directly Related to the Nation of Israel

1. The Return to the Land

Keep in mind that for centuries there had been no Jews in the city of Jerusalem, and only a handful in the entire land of Palestine. By the year 1882, 24,000 Jews had by one way or another managed to get into the land. In 1914, at the beginning of World War I, this number had grown to 85,000. In 1927, ten years after General Allenby had taken the city of Jerusalem, there were 150,000 Jews in Palestine. Twenty years later, in 1947 the year before Israel was born a nation there were 626,000 Jews in Palestine. The greatest human migration in history began when the Nation of Israel was born again on May 14, 1948.

God had promised, "Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth" (*Isaiah 43:5, 6*). With the re-birth of the nation of Israel, Jews from all over the world began to flock to their homeland. Among the first to arrive were 50,000 refugees who had been on illegal immigration ships. British destroyers had intercepted these ships to keep them from unloading the Jews in the Holy Land. But with the independence of Israel the doors were open for these and all others to return. Displaced persons' camps on Cyprus were quickly emptied of 35,000 Jews. Seventy-five thousand came from displaced persons' camps in Germany, Austria, and Italy.

"I will bring thy seed from the east." Prior to independence 87 per cent of the Jews who returned to the

Jews arriving at Haifa Port





Jews from Yemen en route to the Homeland 'on eagles' wings

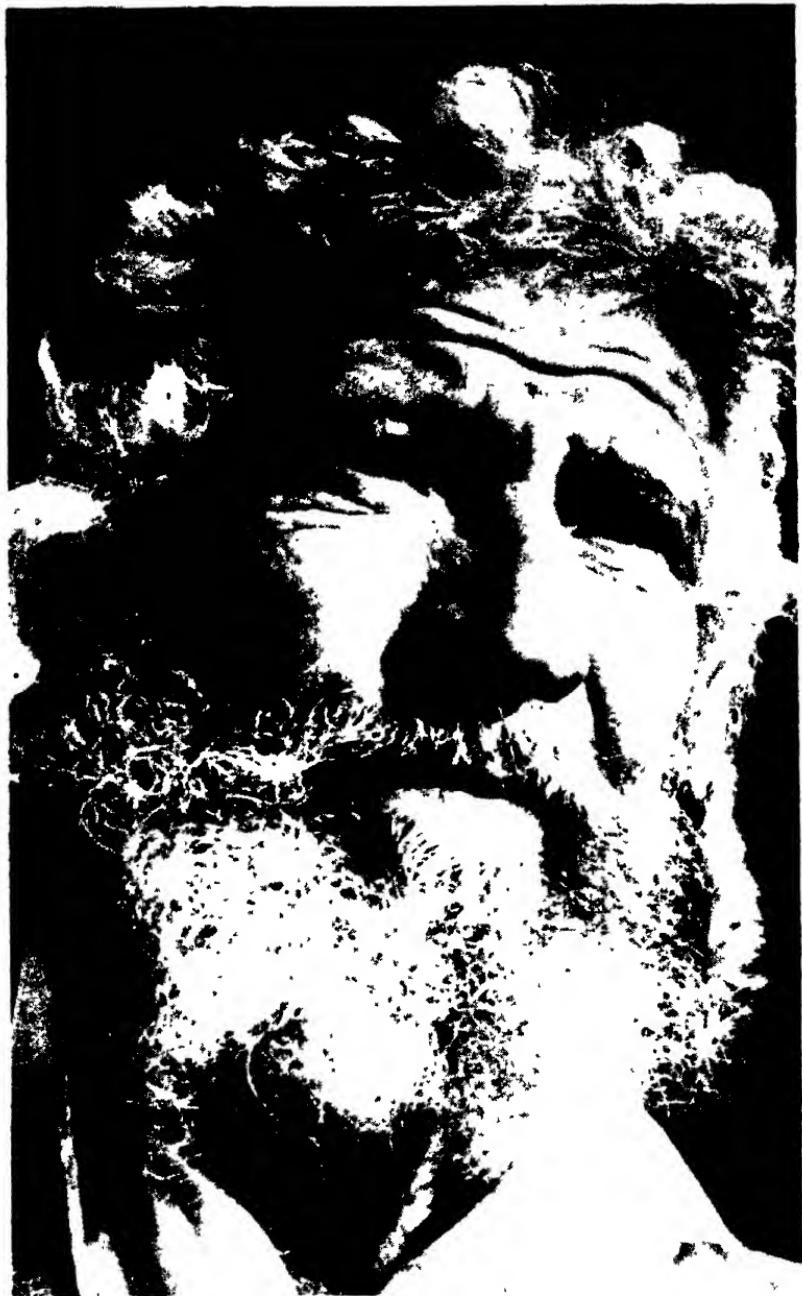
Holy Land came from European countries, and only 10 per cent had come from Oriental countries. However, during the first year and a half of independence there was an increase of 37 per cent of Jews from Oriental countries and by 1953 the percentage had reached 50 per cent. Eight hundred Jews came from Shanghai and Hong Kong.

"I will gather thee from the west." All but a handful of Libya's Jews took passage for Israel. They came from Egypt, Morocco, Tunis, Algeria, the United States and most of the Latin American Countries.

"I will say to the north, Give up." They came from every nation in Europe. Czechoslovakia permitted 20,000 of its surviving Jews to depart. About 30,000 came from Turkey, 36,000 from Bulgaria. More than half of the Jews of Yugoslavia returned.

"I will say to the south, Keep not back." This is most interesting! Our King James Version reads south, but the Hebrew is Teman, and the English word is Yemen. Yemen is a primitive Arab country south of Arabia. It was the home of 148,000 Jews who were the oldest Jewish community in the world. As property of the Moslem rulers, the Jews lived in stinking ghettos. They were forbidden to ride animals, and could not build their houses higher than the lowest Moslem house. They were forbidden to raise their voices in their ancient prayers. Eight out of ten of their children died in infancy. When the news of Israel's independence reached them they began to trudge across the deserts and mountains to camps in Aden. They expected to be carried to Israel by eagles' wings though they had never seen an airplane. The government of Israel organized a giant air lift to bring them to Israel. They were crowded more than 130 at a time into giant DC-4's and were flown back to their home land.

The Nation of Israel was at war with the Arab nations as the Jews began to return. Fierce fighting, both on the ground and in the air, raged all over the Nation. There were no homes for the refugees; food was scarce; every one spoke a different language. At first they came at the rate of 500 every day. In the first seven months over a hundred thousand were admitted, and in the first eighteen months 340,000 came. In 1948, when the statehood of Israel was proclaimed, there were about 700,000 Jews



Old Yemenite Jew

in Palestine. Before three years had passed an additional 655,000 had returned.

In Isaiah 27:13 we read, "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria." Keep in mind that the Jews had migrated in large numbers to Babylon when they were scattered by the Romans in 70 A.D. The modern name for Assyria or Babylon is Iraq (not Iran—which is Persia) and it is very significant to recognize that when the Jews began to return to the Holy Land after independence, one of the largest groups from any country in the world came from Iraq. At that time 92 per cent of the Jews (124,225) left the ancient land of Babylon, though it meant that they were stripped of everything except the clothes on their back when they left. After the Six Day War in 1967, all of the Jews in Iraq left that land, and most of them have migrated to Israel.

The rest of this verse in Isaiah reads, "and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem." When the Jews soundly defeated the Egyptian army in the Six Day War, every Jew in Egypt became "an outcast." Some of the Jews were imprisoned but most of them have been driven out of Egypt.

Though the Nation of Israel made plans to have four million Jews in Palestine by 1963, they fell short of this goal. In 1965, there was a Jewish population of 2,239,000 Jews. Also at that time there were 202,300 Moslems and 55,500 Christians in Israel. At the beginning of 1969, Israel had a population of 2,841,100: 2,434,800 Jews, 300,800 Moslems, 72,150 Christians, and 33,300 Druzes and others.

What we have seen and are seeing is the beginning of the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the regathering of Israel. Jews from over a hundred nations have returned to the land of Israel. They have come in large numbers from all of these nations except the United States and Russia. They have not come in large numbers from the United States because they are too prosperous here, and they are not facing serious persecution. Late in 1970, Golda Meir, the Prime Minister of Israel said, "I'm not stupid as to think that six million American Jews will get up and go to Israel in one

year; it will take two or three years."

God has promised that the time will come that people will no more say, "The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; but the Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all other countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land" (*Jer. 23:7, 8*). The "north country" evidently refers to the Jews that are now in Russia, and "all other countries" would include the United States and other nations where Jews still live.

At the present time there are three million Jews in Russia, most of whom would like to get out and return to their home land, but they are only allowed to leave at the rate of about two thousand a year.

In 1968 and 1969 over 80,000 Russian Jews applied to emigrate to Israel. Since the average Jewish family consists of three persons, this means that 240,000 Russian Jews unsuccessfully tried to leave Russia in those years. As reported in the May, 1970, *U. S. News and World Report* a top Soviet official said, "Of course we have an anti-Jewish campaign going on inside the Soviet Union. What do you expect since we have lined up with the Arabs against Israel? You Americans may prefer two million Jews in Israel as allies. We prefer a hundred million Arabs from the Persian Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean." The question has been raised as to why Russia does not want the Jews to leave. The answer should be obvious. If all of the Jews were allowed to leave Russia, the Jewish population of Israel would be more than doubled.

In spite of the fact that Russia is determined not to give up the Jews within her boundaries, she will give them up, for God has said, "I will say to the north, Give up" (*Isaiah 43:6*), and when God says, "Give up," that is what He means! At the present time increased pressure is being put on the Russians to permit the Russian Jews to return to the Holy Land.

The population of Jews all over the world, according to the 1970 Jewish Yearbook, is put at 13,875,000. The United States, the Soviet Union, and Israel together have 79 per cent of the world's Jewish population. Here are some vital statistics: United States, 5,870,000; Soviet Union, 2,620,000; Israel almost two and a half million,

2,497,000; France, 535,000; Argentina, 500,000; Britain, 410,000; Canada, 280,000. More and more Jews are emigrating from the United States and Canada. Some of the reasons given for this migration are concerns about conformity, materialism, assimilation and anti-Semitism. Coupled with these is a strong desire "to live a Jewish life among Jews."

We recognize what we are seeing at the present time is only the beginning of the fulfillment of the prophecies of God. There are only a few or no Jews remaining in many nations of the world. The complete fulfillment of the regathering of the Jews to the land of Palestine will take place during the Great Tribulation.

Three Reasons Why The Jews Are Returning to Their Own Land

(1) They are returning to the land because this is the program, the plan, and the purpose of God for them.

(2) They are returning to the land because they are the people of the Book (the Old Testament). When Israel was driven into exile and scattered to the four corners of the earth, their Bible went with them. Though the Jews had been torn from their own land, the Bible filled their homes, their schools, and their synagogues with the sounds, the scenes of the homeland. The Bible became a second homeland to them. Wherever the Jews went, they continued to quote the 137th Psalm: "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy" (*Ps. 137:5, 6*). It was the Book that kept the Jewish yearning for the Promised Land ever green. The Book forged an unbreakable link between the people and their desolate land. It was the mandate of the people to the land. Because of the Book the Jews never relinquished their title to the land. The Book gave them vision. It gave them courage to face the terrors in their exile. It gave them strength to face and overcome their enemies when they returned to the land.

"The belief in the Restoration of Zion became a cardinal principle of the Jewish faith, an all-pervasive element in Jewish life. Prayers for the rebuilding of Jerusalem found perpetual place in the three daily ser-

vices, as well as in the grace recited after every meal. Wherever he is, the Jew, in prayer, turns his face and directs his heart towards the Land of Israel. The marriage service contains the entreaty: "Soon may there be heard in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, the voice of joy and gladness." The bereaved mourner is comforted with the added words "together with all those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem;" while the climax is reached in the city that marks the termination of the Passover service and the Day of Atonement—"Next Year in Jerusalem!"

(3) The Jews are returning to their own land because of the fearful, indescribable persecutions they faced in the countries where they have been scattered. Put yourself in their position. If you and your family had gone through what they have for nearly two millenniums, would you not seek for a place of refuge? Would you not be willing to fight for it?

2. The Birth of a Nation

When the British pulled out of Palestine, the Jews were ready to establish their own government, and on May 14, 1948, the statehood of Israel was proclaimed. (It is interesting to note that Israel was the first nation to be recognized by the United Nations.) Immediately, the Jewish-Arab war began. At a press conference in Cairo, the secretary-general of the Arab league declared: "This will be a war of extermination and a momentous massacre; it will be spoken of like the Mongolian massacres and the Crusades." However, after twenty-seven days of fighting a cease fire was arranged through the mediation of the United Nations. Both sides wanted a breathing spell. In July of the same year, fighting broke out again and the Israelis captured Lydda airport and a number of towns that were held by the Arabs. A corridor to Jerusalem was secured by the Jews, and after ten days of Israeli victories both sides agreed to a second truce.

In October of 1956, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria signed an agreement placing their three armies under Nasser's command. Fighting broke out between the United Arab Republic and the tiny nation of Israel. On the eighth day of war the Israeli commanders reported that the occupation of the entire Sinai peninsula by the Jews had been

completed. Over a thousand Egyptians had been killed and almost six thousand had been taken prisoner. Israel's loss was 181 dead, and one prisoner lost. This was a remarkable fulfillment of God's promise to the Jews, "How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight except their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had shut them up?" (*Deut. 32:30*).

3. The Restoration of the Hebrew Language

A most interesting prophecy was made by Jeremiah in 606 B. C. "Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; As yet they shall use this speech in the land of Judah and in the cities thereof, when I bring again their captivity" (*Jeremiah 31:23*). This prophecy which had lain dormant in the Word of God for 2554 years (606 B.C. to 1948 A.D.) is being fulfilled before our eyes. When Britain gained the mandate to govern Palestine in 1918, Hebrew was added to Arabic and English as one of the official languages. When the Jews began to return to Israel in large numbers from all over the world in 1948, there was wild confusion, for each one spoke the language of the nation from whence he had come. A Jewish newspaper editor, by the name of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda had foreseen that when the Jews returned to the land they would need a common language, and he devoted his life to the restoration of the Hebrew language. Hebrew had not been a major language in Palestine since the 6th Century B.C. The religious leaders felt that it was sacred, and that it should not be used for ordinary conversation. In spite of their opposition, Ben-Yehuda went to work and built the Hebrew vocabulary from that of the old Testament with only 7,704 words to almost 100,000 words. Hebrew is now the language that is spoken by the Jews of Israel. In 1970 thirteen daily newspapers were being published in the Hebrew language, two in Arabic, and one in each of the following languages: English, German, Hungarian, French, Polish, Yiddish, Bulgarian and Rumanian. The thirteen daily newspapers demonstrate the remarkable way in which this prophecy about the language is being fulfilled, and is it not remarkable that this is being fulfilled right before our eyes?

4. The Restoration of the Land

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad



s bloss- ng as a Rose

cking Apples in a Klskulz





cking Apples in a Kiskuliz

gation



there are about 150,000 acres of natural forest. Jaffa oranges and grapefruit are world famous. Packing is done in modern mechanized plants.

6. Restoration of Cities

"For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make desolate cities to be inhabited" (*Isaiah 54:3*). "Thus saith the Lord God; — I will cause you to dwell in the cities" (*Ezekiel 36:33*).

With the Jewish population of Israel quadrupling since the independence of the Nation, it is to be expected that many new cities would come into existence, and that the old established cities would experience great growth. The following information about the cities of Israel is taken from *Facts About Israel 1970*.

Jerusalem (275,000)—the capital of Israel and the spiritual and cultural center of the Jewish people the world over, has been an inhabited place since the dawn of history. King David made it his capital in about 1000 B.C.: thenceforth, it became the center of Jewish sovereignty and religious faith. It has always been the focus and forum of Jewish religious life and aspiration, and has had a Jewish majority since the mid-19th century. Today, after years of division, it is again under Jewish control.

Land that was barren sand dunes in 1909 is now Israel's largest city Tel Aviv (384,700). This is the only all-Jewish city in the world.

Haifa (212,200) is Israel's main port. Fine residential suburbs have been built on the slope of Mt. Carmel. It is the world centre of the Baha'i faith.

Acre (33,000) has been an important port since Phoenician days, and was a Crusader stronghold.

Tiberias (23,600) is a popular winter resort because of hot mineral springs.

Jericho (6,800) is one of the oldest cities in the world.

Lydda (27,100) is the international airport.

Nitanya (60,100) is a seaside resort, and has a diamond polishing works and other industries.

Ashdod (31,900) and Ashkelon (38,200) were cities in the time of the Philistines and are now new development towns.

Beersheba (72,000)—where Abraham dug his well—is now the capital of Negev.

Part of the City of Haifa





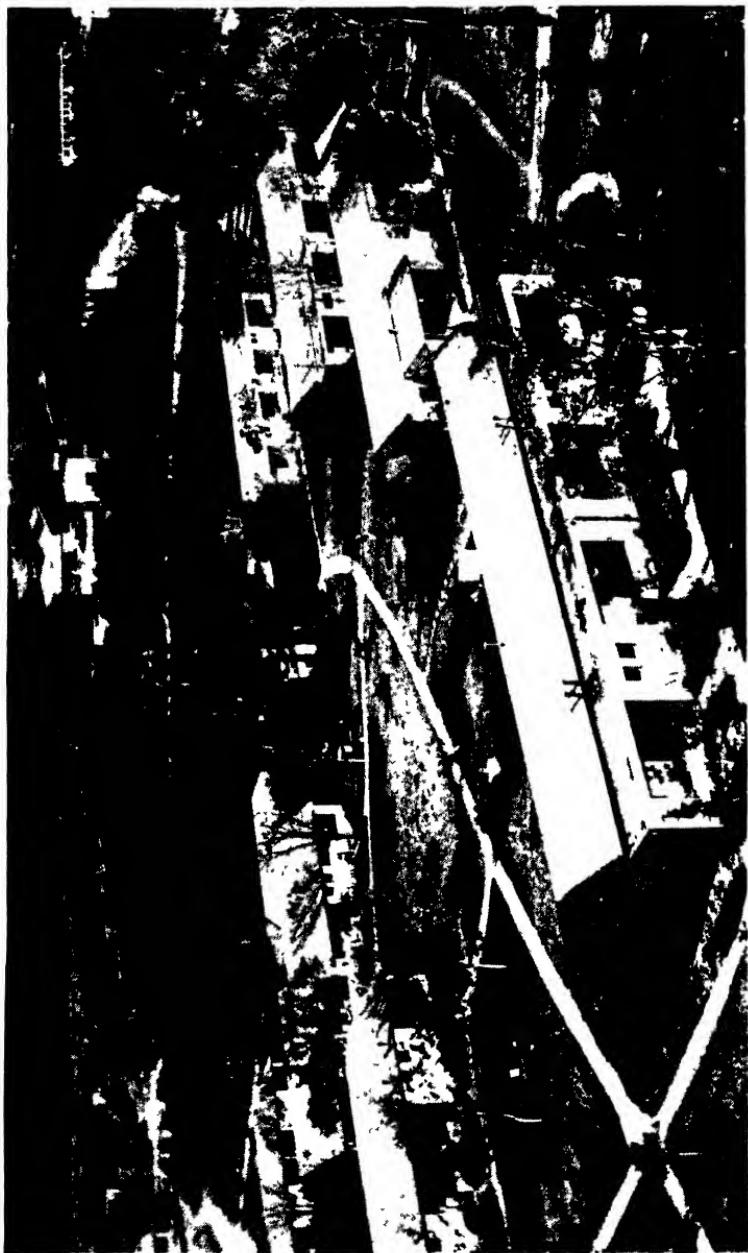
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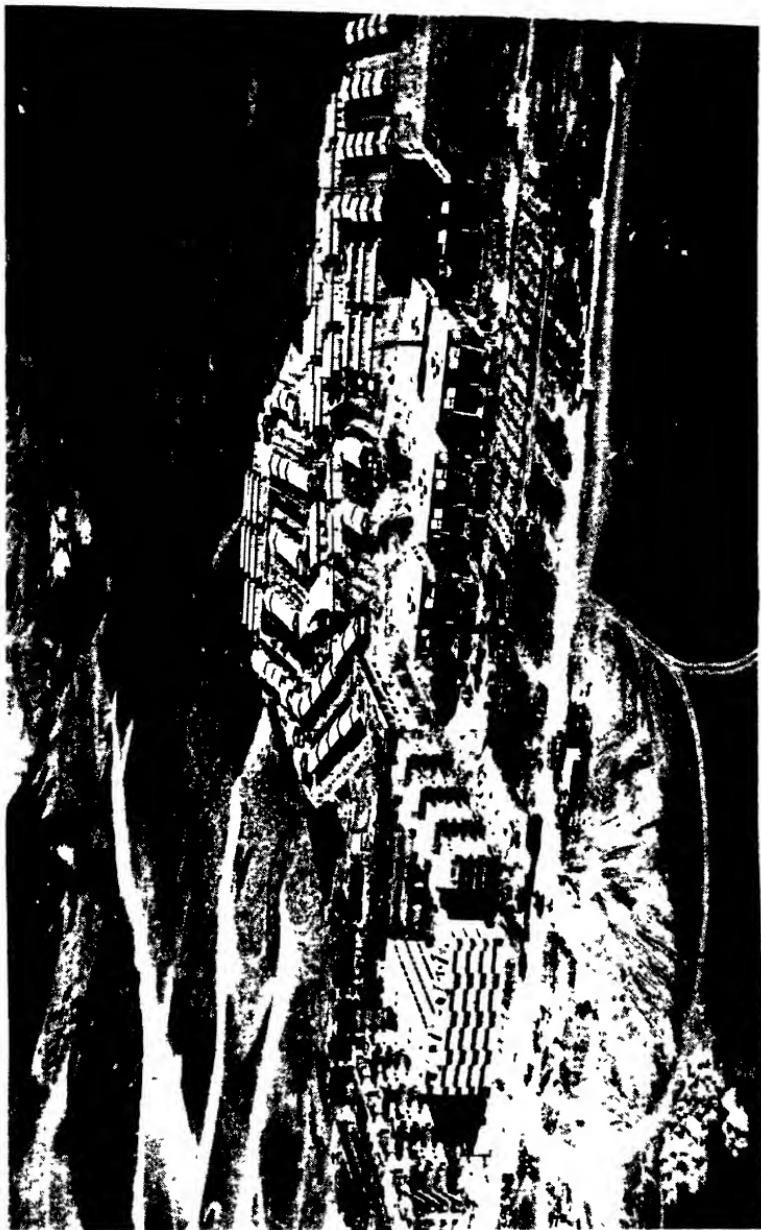
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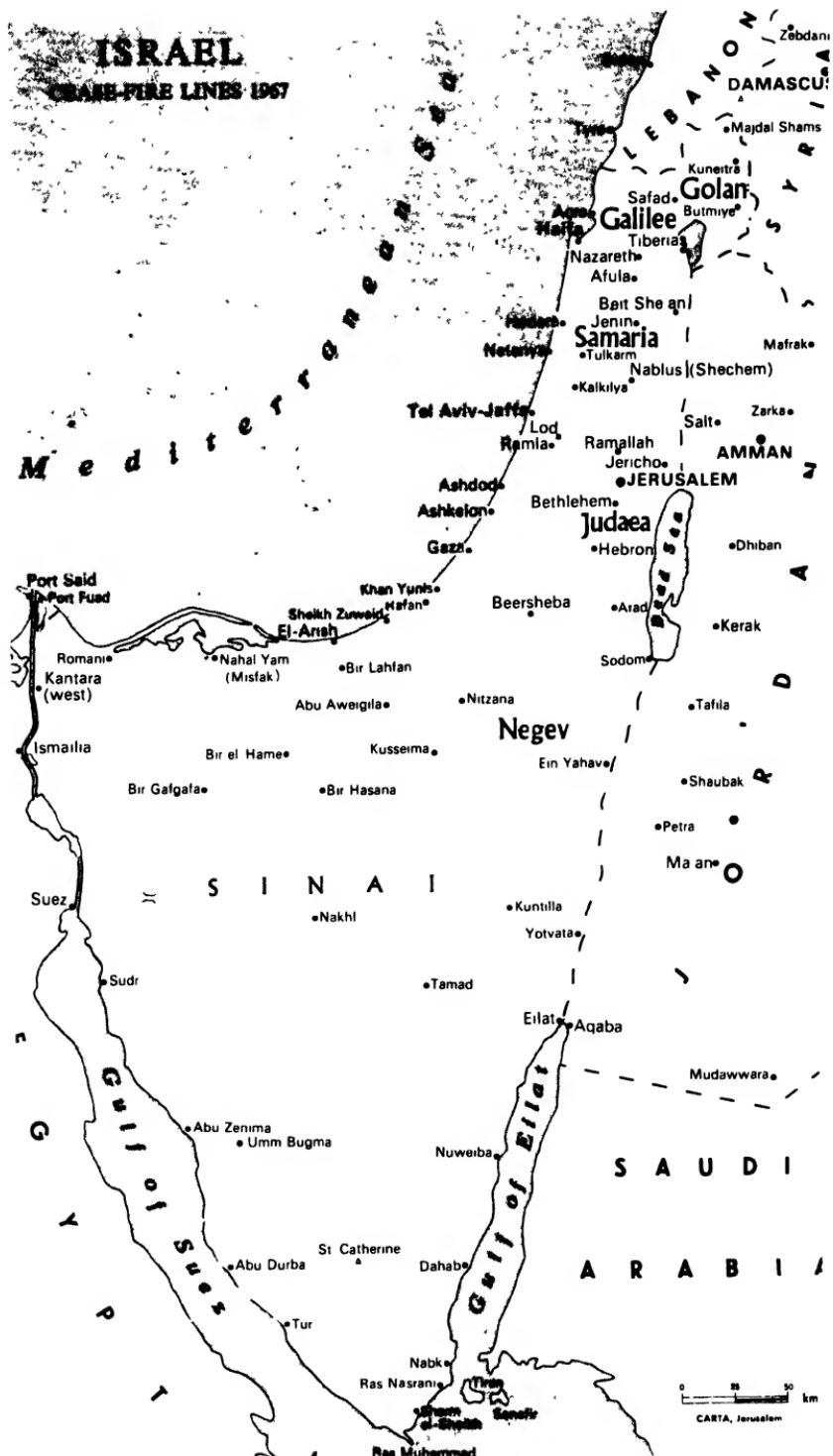




An aerial view of Arad, the new town which is rising in the Negev desert.

ISRAEL

WAR FIRE LINES 1967



Eilat (12,100) was a Red Sea port in Solomon's days; in Arab days it was marked by a single mudbrick outpost. It is now a fast-growing trade outlet to East Africa and Asia, the terminal of an oil pipeline, and an all-year holiday resort.

Hebron (38,350) has been inhabited continuously for 5,000 years. It contains the Cave of Machpelah, which is the burial place of Abraham and Sarah.

Rehovot (34,800) is the centre of the southern belt.

Sodom, the lowest spot on earth, has potash and bromine works.

Some of the other towns and cities (12,400), Nahrin (20,700), Nazareth (13,100), Bethlehem (31,900), and Shechem.

7. *The Six Day War*

Israel and the Arabic Nations have been at daggers point ever since the creation of Israel in 1948. The exchange of life on both sides has been an alarming experience. Late in May (1967), Gamal Abdel Nasser, the President of the United Arab Republics, startled the world by announcing that the Gulf of Aqaba would be closed to Israeli shipping. Since Egypt had denied Israel the use of the Suez Canal, the Port of Elath is Israel's only port to the Red Sea. The Arab Nations began massing their troops on the borders of the tiny nation of Israel (see map). Egypt lined up 80,000 men on the Sinai border, the Syrians had 40,000 in the north. Jordan's 40,000 Arab Legion moved into position on the east, Saudi Arabia sent 20,000 men to assist Jordan. Iraq sent 5,000 troops to help out in Syria.

Before the actual fighting started, radio stations in Cairo announced, "Our people have been waiting 20 years for this battle. Now they will teach Israel the lesson of death! The Arab armies have a rendezvous in Israel!" A Syrian army commander predicted that they would destroy Israel in four days.

Damascus radio called on all Arabs "to undertake the liberation battle that will tear the hearts from the bodies of the hateful Jews and trample them in the dust." At the week's end, Nasser once more went on the radio to say that any war with Israel "will be total, and the ob-

jective will be to destroy Israel. We feel confident that we can win with God's help."

Though historians may argue for years as to who fired the first shot, or as to who dropped the first bomb, once the actual fighting started, it was evident who would be the winner. When Israeli radar picked up flights of enemy bombers, they launched their own surprise attack on 25 vital Arab air bases. When the smoke of the battle had cleared, 400 war planes of five Arab nations had been obliterated. With Israel in control of the air, it was not a major problem for her armies to drive the Egyptians from the Sinai peninsula, and to gain control of the Gulf of Aqaba, thus assuring that the Port of Elath would remain open.

The hardest fighting took place in Jordan. On the second day of the fighting, the Israeli forces took the Old City of Jerusalem and stood before the Wailing Wall. This wall, the only remnant of the Jewish Temple, has been a symbol of Jewish hope for 1,897 years. The Israeli commander who took the wall said, "None of us alive has ever seen or done any thing so great as he has done today." Then he broke down and wept.

In the next two days the Jordanian troops were driven east of the river Jordan, while the armies of Israel advanced to the Dead Sea. With their armies destroyed or in retreat, the Arab nations called for a cease-fire. The Soviet Union, its three billion dollar investment in weapons strewn over the Sinai desert, used the United Nations as a sounding board to demand that Israel return all conquered territory to the Arab nations.

Though this might be called the shortest war in history, it is one of the most significant from a prophetic standpoint. For the first time in centuries the entire city of Jerusalem was in the hands of the Jews.

Six Reasons Why Israel Won the Six Day War

Though the Israeli-Arab War of June 1967 was one of the shortest wars in history, it is one of the most important from the standpoint of fulfilled prophecy. On the surface it may have seemed that the Jews won an easy victory. Such was not the case. There are at least six reasons why the Jews won the war.

1. They were fighting for their home land. In the 1900 years of their dispersion they have suffered untold agonies at the hand of their enemies. So to speak they have been driven from pillar to post without having a land that they could call their own. The land of Canaan is theirs by Divine decree. Another reason why they have a right to the land is that they had taken desolate wastes and pestilent swamps, and, by their own ingenuity and hard labor, had transformed them into one of the most fruitful agricultural areas in the world. They were not about to give up what had cost them so much.

2. They were fighting for their very life. In most wars one side surrenders to the other. Terms are agreed upon, and the vanquished are allowed to continue under prescribed conditions. The Arabs had vowed that this would be a war of extermination. Since the Arabs were determined to drive the Jews into the sea, the Jews fought with reckless abandon.

3. The Israelis won because they profited from a study of the Bible and from a study of past wars under Jewish commanders in Biblical times. Orde Wingate, a British Army captain who was a passionate Zionist, taught the Israelis tactics that he had learned from a study of the Bible. General Moshe Dayan said, "Wingate was my great teacher. He taught me that numbers don't matter. Even if we were three against 100—or one against fifty—there was a way to win." This philosophy was based on Gideon's defeat of the Midianites described in chapters six and seven of the book of Judges.

4. The Israelis' Intelligence is another major reason why the Jews won the Six Day War. An Israeli officer said, "The Arabs have no surprises for us. We knew what they had and where they had it."

5. The Jews won because they planned every detail of the war in advance. Eighty per cent of the Israeli defense force are reservist. They practiced mobilization over and over until they were able to mobilize the entire army in two days.

One example of how advance planning paid off was the manner in which the Jews captured Um Katef, the Egyptian bastion guarding the main route through the Sinai Peninsula. The Egyptians and the Russians thought that this was an impregnable fortress. Every Jewish soldier from general to private was drilled in every de-

tail of the battle plan. In this case the Egyptians were prepared for a frontal attack by the Jews, whereas a flank attack through sand dunes that the Egyptians had thought to be impenetrable enabled the Israeli troops to capture the fortress in 21 hours.

6. And last, but not least, God fought for Israel. The chief chaplain of the Israeli army, Aluf Shlomo Goren, drew up a prayer which the Israeli soldiers were to recite before they went into battle. The prayer is based on Deut. 20:3, 4; Psalms 35:1, 2; 83:2, 3, 14-18.

We give just one example of the dozens of instances where divine intervention was reported. *The Mount Zion Reporter* published the following instance: "One soldier reported that his company was completely surrounded on the Sinai peninsula by Egyptian soldiers. They were all afraid, took cover behind sandbags, and awaited death. Suddenly someone appeared in white raiment close to their position. Everyone saw him. After a few seconds, he disappeared. The Egyptians fled as fast as they could. The shooting stopped. None of his soldiers was injured. This soldier, who was an infidel, has since then become a zealous believer who strongly believes and witnesses to the fact that God does exist and that he and his comrades were saved from certain death by a miracle."

"

The Significance of the Six Day War

1. The Six Day War put the entire city of Jerusalem in Jewish hands for the first time in 1900 years, thus setting the stage for the ending of "The Times of the Gentiles." More details about this are given in Section Eight.

2. With the entire city of Jerusalem in Jewish hands, the Temple site was also in their possession. More details are given in Section Nine.

3. The Six Day War is important because it is a prelude to the battle described in Ezekiel 38 and 39. More details are given in Section Ten, and "Israel in the Future."

4. The Six Day War gave confidence to Jews all over the world. There is a saying, "When some one lifts his hand, the Jew lifts his feet." Now this is being changed. A new theme is emerging. Jews are saying, "We are not

going to turn the other cheek. We are not going to take it any more. Sitting back and being passive only leads to Auschwitz." Jewish university students are being taught karate, and Jewish clubs are being formed in several cities in the United States.

5. The Six Day War won world-wide admiration for the Jews. Most people naturally favor the under dog, and when the two and one half million Jews were surrounded by 80 million Arabs, most of the people in the world were rooting for the Jews. When the Jews won the war, they began to win a warm place in the hearts of people all over the world. Perhaps this was the beginning of the time predicted in the Scriptures which says, "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you" (Zechariah 8:23).

8. The Times of the Gentiles

Jesus said, "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24). The Scofield Reference Bible states: "The 'Time of the Gentiles' began with the captivity of Judah under Nebuchadnezzar (II Chron. 36:1-21). Since that time Jerusalem has been as Christ said 'trodden down by the Gentiles'."

Four developments must be considered which show that the "Times of the Gentiles" are now ending. (1) The signing of the Balfour Declaration, (2) the taking of the city of Jerusalem from the Turks in World War I, (3) the possession of half of the city of Jerusalem by the Jews in 1948, and (4) the taking of the entire city of Jerusalem by the Jews in June of 1967.

If we knew the city of Jerusalem would remain in Jewish hands, we would know that the "Times of the Gentiles" had ended, but Revelation 11:2 tells us that the holy city will be trodden down of the Gentiles for three and a half years during the Great Tribulation. As the prophetic Scriptures are fulfilled before our eyes, we are given a clearer understanding of passages that were clouded in the past. We can now see that the Six Day War of 1967 made it possible for the city of Jerusalem to be given to the Gentiles since it is now in pos-

session of the Jews (*Rev. 11:2*). How could it be given to the Gentiles, if the Gentiles already had it? In June of 1967 we entered a transitional period between the end of the present age and the beginning of the new age. We are now in the interval between the close of the Church age and beginning of the Kingdom age. We must recognize that the "Times of the Gentiles" are drawing close, but that they will not end until the Second Coming of Christ, when Jesus will return to the earth to reign as the King of the Jews.

9. The Temple Site Now in Jewish Hands

When the Jews captured the Old City of Jerusalem in the summer of 1967, they became the possessors of the land on which the Temple was built, and on which it will be rebuilt. The first Temple, built by Solomon about 960 B. C., was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B. C. The Persians who conquered the Babylonians allowed the Jews to return to Judea and rebuild the Temple on a much smaller scale. Herod, the Roman King, enlarged this Temple and adorned it with marble and gold. This Temple which stood in Jesus' day was completely destroyed by Titus the Roman General in 70 A.D.

The Mosque of Omar, which the Moslems built on the Temple site in 687 A.D., and which is the second most sacred spot in the world for Moslems (Mecca being the first), has recently been repaired at great expense by the Moslems. Even though this shrine is most sacred to Moslems the world over, the Jews are determined to rebuild their own Temple here. The rebuilding of the Temple could well be the incident that could bring about the overthrow of the City of Jerusalem (*Rev. 11:2*). The Temple will be rebuilt, for the Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Thessalonica, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God shewing himself that he is God" (*II Thess. 2:3, 4*).

Bible scholars recognize that we are now witnessing the "falling away" that is spoken of in these verses. As long as the Mosque of Omar stands, the man of sin cannot sit "in the temple of God shewing himself that he is God," but with the Temple site now in the hands of the

Jews, they will be able to rebuild the Temple whenever they think that it is expedient for them to do so. The Abomination of Desolation (spoken of by Jesus in Matt. 24:15) which will be the man of sin sitting in the Temple showing himself to be God, will take place during the first part of the Tribulation, after the Rapture of the Church. The interesting and thrilling thing is that now the stage is set whereby these things can be fulfilled. Though no man can know the day nor the hour when Jesus will come (Matt. 24:36), it may be that some of us will be here when the Jews start tearing down the Mosque of Omar in order to rebuild their own Temple. Watch for this! We may be here to witness the beginning of the building of the Temple, or for that matter the completion of it. Watch for these things, but above all keep your eyes on the skies, keep listening for the shout! Jesus said, "When these things begin to come to pass then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28).

10. The Stage is Being Set for the Fulfillment of Ezekiel 38 and 39

The 38th and 39th chapters of Ezekiel make it plain that Russia, the largest nation in size on the face of the earth, with over 220 million people will be defeated by the tiny Nation of Israel with less than three million people. The details of this battle are described in the last section of this book.

When the Jews were still struggling for a homeland, the Russians took the lead in the United Nations to create a Jewish state. In 1947 and 1948 Andrei, the deputy foreign minister of the U. S. S. R., strongly advocated the formation of the Nation of Israel. When we compare present tirades of Russian spokesmen against Israel with the words of Gromyko, they make strange reading. Gromyko declared that it would be unjust to deny the Jews the right to realize their aspiration to have a state of their own. He reminded the U.N. how the Jews had gone through indescribable suffering, and said that the time had come to help the Jews not by words but by deeds. It was through Gromyko's persistence that the Jews even won the right to appear before a U.N. committee to plead their cause. The Soviet Union became the first government in the world to give the new Nation of Israel full official recognition.

When the Holy Land was divided between the Jews and the Arabs, and when the Arab nations were attacking the tiny Nation of Israel, Russia came to her rescue by supplying artillery and airplanes when all other nations refused to help her. Russia had high hopes for the fledgling country, and anticipated that Israel would be their long-sought-for toehold in the Middle East. Many of the Jewish leaders had been born in Russia, and the Jews had created kibbutzims which were the only working communal settlements in the world.

But the Jews had not founded their nation in order to become a Soviet pawn. They set up, instead, a democratic oasis in a desert of feudal sheikdoms and military dictatorships. And besides this, they unreservedly favored the West. When the Russians recognized the Israelis' position, the stage was set for a Russian about-face.

When Nasser came into power, Egypt and the Russians entered into a courtship that has continued until the present time. Russia not only began to pour millions of dollars worth of military supplies into Egypt, but also sent thousands of technicians and pilots to Egypt. Russia supplied Egypt with tanks, fighter bombers, rocket launchers, heavy artillery, anti-aircraft guns, radar and all kinds of military equipment. Russia has increased her military strength over 500 per cent in the Mediterranean area.

It has been confirmed that the Israeli Phantom aircraft and MIG-21's that were piloted by Russians have repeatedly battled over Suez. General Ho, the Israeli Commander, made this comment, "The problem is that they are so numerous and we are so few." However, Golda Meir, the Israeli Prime Minister, has said that her troops will continue to attack even if it means taking on Soviet troops and technicians, and she has predicted that in nine out of ten fights the Russian planes would be shot down. General Moshe Dayan has stated that Russia will be Israel's next opponent.

11. The Stage Is Being Set for Armageddon

"And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon" (Rev. 16:16). "And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress

of the wrath of God" (*Rev. 14:19*). "Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather all nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all of my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy" (*Zeph. 3:8*). "For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives" (*Zeck. 14:2-4; Acts 1:11*).

You do not have to be a prophet, nor the son of a prophet, to see that world affairs are shaping up, and heading toward this great climatic event. We live in the days when these Scriptures are being fulfilled before our eyes.

When These Things Begin

Jesus said, "When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (*Luke 21:28*). Certainly we have witnessed the beginning of these things. Jesus is coming soon; get ready to meet Him.

A Summary of Fourteen Significant Facts

1. The Nation of Israel is the chosen people of God.
2. God scattered them all over the world because of their disobedience.
3. God promised to regather them and bring them into their own land.
4. The fig tree is a type of the Nation of Israel.
5. Jesus told us that when the fig tree BEGAN to bud His second coming would be near.
6. In our own day, for the first time in centuries Jews are returning in large numbers to their own land.
7. The desert is beginning to blossom as a rose.
8. The desolate cities are being rebuilt.

9. The Hebrew language is again being spoken.
10. For the first time in 2500 years (except for a short time in the days of the Macabees) the entire city of Jerusalem is in the hands of the Jews.
11. The temple site is in their possession.
12. All of this is in preparation for their chastening during the Great Tribulation.
13. The stage is being set for Armageddon.
14. This can mean but one thing: The Rapture of the Church must be very near at hand!

Israel in the Future

Someone may say, "It is very well to write about Israel in the past and in the present, but it is preposterous to write about the future of an individual or of a nation." It would be presumptuous to do this, if the Christian did not have an omniscient God who knows all about the past, the present, and the future. God knows what the future holds because He works all things after the counsel of His will, and in His grace He has been pleased to reveal these things to His children through His Holy Word, the Bible.

Since hundreds of large volumes have been written on all aspects of the prophetic Scriptures, it is not our purpose in this book to attempt to give more than a simple outline with the essential facts that are related to the Nation of Israel.

The MISSIONARY CRUSADER publishes a booklet entitled *An Outline of Things to Come*. The outline that is given in that booklet is as follows:

An Outline of Things to Come

I. Introduction

- A. What is Prophecy
- B. The Covenants
- C. Dispensational Truth
- D. The Gentile, the Jew, and the Church
- E. The First and Second Comings of Christ
- F. Contrast between the two Comings

II. The Signs of the Times

III. The Next Great Events

- A. The First Resurrection
- B. The Rapture of the Church

IV. Events in Heaven

- A. The Judgment Seat of Christ
- B. Marriage Supper of the Lamb
- C. War in Heaven

V. Events on the Earth

- A. The Great Tribulation
- B. Reign of Antichrist
- C. Armageddon

D. Re-gathering of Israel

VI. The Second Coming of Christ (The Revelation)

VII. The Millennium

A. The Judgment of the Nations

B. Christ's Reign on David's Throne

C. Peace and Righteousness on Earth

D. Final Rebellion

E. The Second Resurrection

F. The Great White Throne Judgment

VIII. The New Creation

A. The New Heaven

B. The New Earth

C. The New Jerusalem

Since our thinking in this booklet is limited to events that are related to the Nation of Israel, we will follow the above outline only in so far as it relates to Israel. The writer is well aware that world events are transpiring so rapidly that what he writes today may be out of date by the time this booklet is printed. This happened when the first printing of *The Budding of the Fig Tree* was made in 1967. We were going to press with that booklet when the Six Day War broke out; we had to stop the printer, and bring the booklet up to date! As time goes on, and as the Prophetic Scriptures are fulfilled, the Spirit of God gives us a clearer understanding concerning future events. Bible prophecies are constantly being brought into sharper focus.

The Rapture of the Church

As far as we know now the next great prophetic event to take place is the Rapture of the Church. Since only 20 per cent of the Jews in the world are now in the Holy Land, and 80 per cent of them are still scattered in many parts of the world, at least three great events could take place before the Rapture.

(1) Jews that are free to do so could return in large numbers to the land of Israel. There are nearly six million Jews in the United States. The largest concentration of Jews anywhere in the world is in Brooklyn, New York. There are half a million Jews in France and the same number in Argentina, about 400,000 in Britain, and 280,000 in Canada. Bible teachers usually teach that these Jews will be gathered at the Second Coming of

Christ, but the evidence is that they will be in Israel during the Tribulation, before the Revelation of Christ.

(2) The three or three and a half million Jews that are in Russia could return to Israel at any time. The fate of the Russian Jews is a redhot issue and while it may blow hot and cold, it is not likely to cool off until the Jews are out of Russia. Though a small minority of Jews are in high places in Russia, most of the Russian Jews are routinely subjected to harsh treatment. They suffer job discrimination, racial slurs, and many times are regarded as potential traitors by their fellow citizens. The Kremlin's strong pro-Arab policy has cast the Jew in the role of being the enemy of Russia. While other ethnic groups such as the Ukrainians and the Armenians are allowed to speak their own language and are given a degree of cultural autonomy, the Jews are not allowed the same privileges. Abuse against the Jews increased after the Six Day War. Jews who apply for exit visas are considered disloyal, and many have lost their jobs and have been subjected to intimidation and insults by police and neighbors. Some have been put in jail on trumped-up charges. Nonetheless, 40,000 Jews have asked to be allowed to leave. A current joke in Russia runs like this, "How many Jews live in the Soviet Union?"

"About 3,500,000."

"And how many of them want to leave?"

"About 5,000,000."

The Jews say that they have endured such misery that they are not afraid anymore.

Russia says that she will not allow the Jews to leave, but God says, "I will say to the north, Give up" (*Isaiah 43:6*), and when God says this, Russia will give up the Jews.

(3) The war described in Ezekiel 38 and 39 could be fought. I realize that this statement will arouse the ire of the pre-tribulationist. So, in case you have not recognized it already, I re-affirm that I am a dispensationalist, and a pre-tribulationist. If I were to say that Ezekiel 38 and 39 must be fulfilled before the Rapture, you would have some ground for accusing me of false teaching, but when I say that Ezekiel 38 and 39 could be fulfilled before the Rapture, I am still on solid ground, and I still believe in the imminent return of the Lord. More details about this will be given later.

What Is the Rapture?

This book will be read by some people who are thorough students of the Prophetic Scriptures, but it will be read by others who have very little understanding of Scriptural terminology and events. In order that people who are in this second group will not be confused, we quote two key Scriptures to show what is meant by "rapture." "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are sleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*).

The word "rapture" is not found in the Bible but is taken from the Greek word "rapiro" from which our English words "caught up" in verse 17 is a translation.

The Rapture is the catching up of the Church, and by "the Church" we mean all of the born-again people of every denomination including Christian Jews. Such people will literally, bodily, physically be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. The Rapture is the event when Christ comes for His own; the Revelation (*Rev. 19:11-16*) is the event when Christ comes back to the earth with His own.

The other key Scripture on the Rapture is as follows, "Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is

swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (*Corinthians 15:51-58*).

The Rapture of the Church can take place at any moment, and every Scriptural sign indicates that it may take place at any moment. More details about the Rapture are given in our booklet *His Glorious Appearing*. When the Rapture takes place, a small minority of the people on the earth will be missed. Some confusion will be caused by wrecks on the land and in the air when drivers of automobiles and airline pilots are snatched away, but it will not take long for things to get back to normal. Even most churches will continue to function as usual, and most preachers will continue to bring their moral lectures. In most congregations a few people who were thought to be peculiar will be missed.

The Antichrist

The Bible teaches that after the Church is raptured, the "Antichrist" will be revealed. In 2 Thessalonians 2:3 we read, "That day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and the man of sin be revealed." The words "falling away" can also be correctly translated "a catching away." But be that as it may, in verses seven and eight of this same chapter we read, "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked (one) be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and with the brightness of his coming."

Most conservative Bible scholars are agreed that "he who now letteth" refers to the Holy Spirit, and that the Holy Spirit will be taken away, in a bodily sense, at the Rapture, and the man of sin will be revealed after the Rapture of the Church. The Bible has much to say about this man who will be energized by Satan. Some of his names are: The Prince of Tyrus (*Ezekiel 28:2*), the little horn (*Daniel 7:8*), a king of fierce countenance

(*Daniel 8:23*), the prince that shall come (*Daniel 9:26*), the king (*Daniel 11:36*), the man of sin (*2 Thess. 2:3*), the Wicked One (*2 Thess. 2:8*), the Antichrist (*1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7*). He is the first Beast of Revelation 13. From the book of the Revelation we learn:

- (1) The Devil gives the Antichrist his power, his seat, and great authority (13:2).
- (2) All the world marvels (wonders) after the Beast (13:3).
- (3) People ask, "Who is able to make war with him?" (13:4).
- (4) He has a mouth speaking great things (13:5).
- (5) He continues for three and a half years (13:5).
- (6) He blasphemes God (13:6).
- (7) He makes war with the saints and overcomes them (13:7).
- (8) He has power over all kindreds, tongues, and nations (13:7).
- (9) All that dwell on the earth shall worship him (13:8).
- (10) He is supported by the second Beast (13:12).
- (11) Ten kings give their power and strength to the Beast (17:13).
- (12) He makes war against Christ (19:19; *Psalms 2:2-7*).
- (13) He is cast alive into the lake burning with fire and brimstone (19:20).
- (14) He is tormented forever in Hell (20:10).

With the whole world torn by discord and strife, we can readily see that the stage is now set for the appearance of the Antichrist. He will not appear on the scene as a villain or as a monster of iniquity, but rather as a gentlemen and a scholar. He will be a world leader who will have the power to bring about world peace temporarily (*Rev. 6:2*); under his leadership the world will for a time enjoy economic prosperity (*Daniel 8:25*). He will be so popular that people all over the world will worship him (*Rev. 13:8*). The Jews will receive him as their messiah. Jesus said, "I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive (*John 5:43*).

The Abomination of Desolation

When Jesus was revealing the signs that would take place before His Second Coming, He said, "When ye

therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) then let them which be in Judea flee unto the mountains . . . for then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (*Matt. 24:15-21*). If we are to understand what Jesus meant by "the abomination of desolation" we must read what Daniel the prophet had to say about this. Let us read Daniel 9:26, 27: "And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the over-spreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."

The first part of verse 26 is a clear-cut reference to the Cross. Jesus, the Messiah, was cut off by His atoning death. Sir Robert Anderson and other Bible scholars have shown that Jesus was crucified at exactly the time when this Scripture said He would be crucified. The Holy Spirit of God has used this evidence to bring hundreds of Jews to a saving knowledge of Christ. The words "and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary" were fulfilled when Titus destroyed the city of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 A.D. If we are to understand Daniel 9:27, 11:31, and 12:11 correctly, we must apply the law of double reference. "And they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate" was partially fulfilled in 175 B.C. when Antiochus Epiphanes, the Syrian King, offered a sow on the altar in the Jewish Temple in order to desecrate it. But that this is not the only fulfillment, nor the primary fulfillment of this Scripture, is shown by the fact that Jesus spoke of it as being a future event.

The primary fulfillment of Daniel 9:27 is four-fold: (1) The Antichrist will enter into a seven-year covenant with the Jews that have been regathered in the land of Israel, (2) he will break the covenant with them after three and a half years, (3) he will take away the daily

sacrifice that has been restored, (4) the abomination that maketh desolate shall be set up. Many Bible scholars believe that the abomination will be accomplished when the Antichrist sets up an image of himself in the Temple area and will demand that his image be worshipped as God. However, I believe that the abomination of desolation will be fulfilled when the Antichrist actually sits on the mercy seat of the ark of the covenant in the rebuilt Temple showing that he, himself, is God, and demanding that he be worshipped as God. I base this on a literal interpretation of 2 Thessalonians 2:4, "Who (the man of sin, the son of perdition) opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped: so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

When the Antichrist reveals his true character in this way, the Jews will turn from him in horror, and will flee to the rock fortress of Petra where they will stay until the battle of Armageddon is fought. The flight of the Jews to Petra will take place after Satan is cast out of heaven in 'the middle of the Tribulation (*Revelation 12:7-12*). "And when the dragon (Satan) saw that he was cast out into the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child ("The woman" is a clear reference to Israel.)" (*Rev. 12:13*). Israel flees "into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times and a half a time (3½ years), from the face of the serpent" (*Rev. 12:14*). It is of great interest to know that Dr. W. E. Blackstone, George T. B. Davis, and others have placed Bibles, in sealed containers, in the desolate city of Petra, so that the Jews will discover and read them during the days of their internment.

But before we can continue our study of the Jews as related to the Battle of Armageddon and to the revelation of Christ as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, we must study what the Bible has to say about the Jews during the Tribulation, and we must seek to fit into this picture the battle in which the tiny Nation of Israel will defeat the great Nation of Russia (*Ezekiel 38-39*).

The Great Tribulation

As I study my Bible, I am amazed at the space that is

given to describing the Great Tribulation. More is written about this seven-year period than is written about either Heaven or Hell. Though the principal message describing the Tribulation is Revelation 6-19, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and several minor prophets have much to say about this awful time. Though the whole world will be convulsed during this time, and even though all of the people in the world will suffer greatly, the Tribulation is primarily "The time of Jacob's trouble" (*Jeremiah 30:7*).

Ezekiel describes the manner in which God will deal with the Jews during the Tribulation in this way, "As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you: And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD. And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the Lord" (*Ezekiel 20:33-38*). Jeremiah says that during the time when God brings Israel back into their land, the suffering will be so great that people will say, "Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness" (*Jeremiah 30:6*).

When the Russian Bear Will Be Conquered by the Lion of Judah

At this point I invite you to study with me the battle that is described in Ezekiel 38 and 39. If we are to understand Ezekiel 38 and 39, we must learn some lessons from Ezekiel 34-37. God reminds us that He is going to regather Israel and that He is going to bring them into

their own land. "For thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country" (*Ezekiel 34:11-13*). "And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd" (*Ezekiel 34:23*). "And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the Lord, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them" (*Ezekiel 34:27*). In our section on the restoration of the land we have seen that this prophecy is being fulfilled. Edom and the other nations about Israel are to remain desolate, but the mountains of Israel shall shoot forth their branches (*35:15; 36:8*). The land of Israel is to be tilled and sown (*36:9*). In the section on the restoration of the land we have seen that this is being fulfilled. "And I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, even all of it, and the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be built" (*36:10*). We have seen that this also is being fulfilled. "And I will multiply upon you man and beast, and they shall increase and bring forth fruit" (*36:11*). This is being fulfilled. "And I scattered them among the heathen, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them. And when they entered unto the heathen, whither they went, they profaned my holy name, when they said to them, These are the people of the Lord, and are gone forth out of his land. But I had pity for mine holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen, whither they went. And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the Lord, saith the Lord God, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among

the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land" (*Ezekiel 36:19-24*). This, too, has been fulfilled. "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God" (*Ezekiel 36:26-28*). This has not been fulfilled, but will be fulfilled at the Second Coming of Christ.

"Thus saith the Lord God; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded. And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the Lord build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the Lord have spoken it, and I will do it" (*Ezekiel 36:33-36*). We are witnessing the fulfillment of these verses. We are witnessing the beginning of all *Ezekiel 37*. If we are to understand *Ezekiel 38* and *39*, we must understand *Ezekiel 34-37*. We must see that the prophecies in *34-37* have been, and are being, fulfilled in a literal manner, and for this reason we believe that the prophecies in *Ezekiel 38* and *39* will be fulfilled in a literal manner.

Since we are not giving the complete text of *Ezekiel 38* and *39*, you will have to study this section with your Bible open to these chapters. Almost all prophetic scholars are agreed that Magog refers to Russia, and that Gog is the prince of Russia. It is not relevant to our discussion to seek to identify the other nations that are mentioned in this chapter. "I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal" (*38:3*). Meshech evidently refers to Moscow, and perhaps Tubal is the city of Tobolsk on the Tobol river.

Why God Is Against Russia

God is against Russia for the following reasons:

(1) Because Russia is against God. This atheistic, communistic nation boldly and blatantly lets the world know that they are against God. They have defied the God of heaven; they offer degrees of atheism in their universities. When their astronauts returned from their space flight they boasted that they had not seen God anywhere.

(2) Because Russia is against the Bible. The Communists have kept the Bible from Bible-believing Christians in Russia.

(3) Because Russia is against the Church of God. Yet in spite of all that the Communists have been able to do, Christianity has never been stamped out completely in Russia. Uncounted thousands of Christians have died for their faith in Russia, and those who have not been liquidated have suffered much persecution.

(4) Because Russia is against Israel, the chosen people of God. Since God has promised, "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee" (*Genesis 12:3*), the Holy God will keep His Word.

The Nations in the Sight of God

The nations of the world are seen by God to be nothing more than the dust on the balances (*Isaiah 40:15,17*). They are but pawns in His hands. God puts it in the heart of the rulers of the nations to fulfill His will (*Rev. 17:17*). From the human standpoint Russia will move, and is moving against Israel to further her own purposes, but from the divine standpoint God puts hooks in their jaws to compel them to do His will (*Ezekiel 38:4*).

We have a good example of the manner in which God can cause His creatures to act contrary to their own will when the Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant. When the Philistines brought the Ark of God into the house of Dagon, God smote the Philistines with tumors and caused many of them to die. The Philistines did not know whether or not what was happening to them was a coincidence or whether or not it was a judgment from God.

They, therefore, made a new cart, and hitched milk cows which had new calves to the cart. They then put the Ark of the Covenant on the cart. If the cows stayed at home close to their calves, the Philistines would know that their suffering was a coincidence, but if the cows,

contrary to nature, carried the Ark back to Israel, they would know that their suffering was from God. The Bible says, "And the cows took the straight way to the way of Bethshemesh, and went along the highway, lowing as they went, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left; and the lords of the Philistines went after them unto the border of Bethshemesh" (*1 Samuel 6:12*).

In the same way, God will put hooks in the jaws of the Russians and will bring them against Israel. He will do the same thing with all of the nations at the battle of Armageddon (*Zech. 14:2*).

The Bible does not give us the exact time when the battle of Ezekiel 38,39 will take place, but it gives several clues so that we can know the approximate time. In Ezekiel 38:8 it is stated that it will be "in the latter years." In the same verse it says, "Thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel which have always been waste; but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely, all of them." This speaks of the times in which we live. The land which has been waste is no longer waste, but is "blossoming like a rose" (*Isaiah 35:1*).

Russia will come like a storm, and like a cloud to cover the land (*Ezekiel 38:9, 16*). The Russian leaders will think an evil thought against Israel (*38:10*). They are already doing this. They are determined to do away with Israel, which is blocking their control of the Near East. They want to capture the wealth of the Dead Sea, which is worth more than four times the wealth of the United States.

"I will go up against the land of unwalled villages" (*38:11*). All of the villages were walled in Ezekiel's time, but they are unwalled at the present time.

"To those who are at rest, who dwell safely" (*38:11*). This would indicate that Israel is enjoying a time of peace. Certainly they are not doing this now. The peace that they enjoy will likely be as a result of the covenant that they have made with the Antichrist in which he promises them security and protection.

"To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thy hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited" (*38:12*). This is remarkable! Desolate places that are now inhabited! What an apt description of the present condition

of Israel. We see now that this prophecy could not have been fulfilled 50 years ago.

"Thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts" (38:15), "and will cause thee to come up from the north parts" (39:2). Take a ruler and draw a line on the map from Israel to the North Pole and the line will pass right through Moscow. A very interesting coincidence!

Again in Ezekiel 39:1,2 we read, "I am against thee, O Gog . . . I will leave but the sixth part of thee". We do not know how many of the Russians will be killed in this battle. We don't know whether or not "the sixth part" refers to the entire nation or to the army that marches against Israel. We do know, however, that it will be an extremely large number because the Bible says that it will take the people of Israel seven months to bury the dead (39:14). "I will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel" (39:4). "They (Israel) shall spoil those that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord GOD" (39:10).

How Can This Be?

How can anyone be expected to believe that the little nation of Israel can conquer the great nation of Russia? Russia is the largest nation in the world in size, and is third in population (after China and India). When Russia was humiliated by the United States in the Cuban missile crisis, Soviet negotiator Vasily Kuznetsov said, "This will be the last time you Americans will be able to do this to us." At that time Soviet planners made the decision to aim for the military supremacy of the air.

They now have 300 SS-9 missiles that are 100-feet-tall, each of which cost \$30 million. They have developed a ballistic missile submarine with a range of 3,000 miles that is comparable to the U.S. Polaris submarine. President Nixon said, "If present trends continue, the United States, a very few years hence, will find itself in second position—with the Soviet Union indisputably the greatest power on earth." The late Congressman L. Mendel Rivers of South Carolina said, "I am afraid that that day has already arrived."

If Russia is the greatest military power on the face of the earth, is it not fantastic to believe that they can be defeated by the little nation of Israel?

The story of David and Goliath gives us a miniature picture of what will take place when Russia attacks Israel. For the details of this account read the 17th chapter of 1 Samuel. Israel will defeat Russia because God is for Israel and He is against Russia. God will fight for Israel as when He fought in the day of battle (*Zechariah 14:3; 1 Chronicles 5:20, 22; 2 Chron. 20:15*), and He will fight against Russia. We have seen that God fought for Israel in the Six Day War of 1967, and Ezekiel 39 shows us that God will again fight for Israel and against Russia in this battle. God says, "When Gog shall come against the land of Israel my fury shall come up in my face" (38:18). "There shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel" (38:19). "The mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground" (38:20). "Every man's sword shall be against his brother" (38:21). This phenomenon was demonstrated many times in Old Testament history. It has been demonstrated many times recently when Arab fought Arab instead of uniting to fight Israel. "And I will enter judgment against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone" (*Ezekiel 38:22*). The people of Israel expect Russia to be their next enemy. General Dayan has said that Russia will be their next enemy. Premier Golda Meir has said that Israel will fight Russia, if they have to. It is a case of do or die for them. There is a tremendous build up of the Russian Army, Navy and Airforce men and material in the Mediterranean area. Israel is already actually fighting the Russian Airforce.

Why Does God Do All Of This?

He does it that the house of Israel might know that He is the Lord (*Ezekiel 34:11,30; 35:4,9,12; 36:11; 37:6,13; 39:22*). He does it that the nations of the world might know that He is the Lord (*Ezekiel 34:30; 35:15; 36:23, 36, 38; 37:28; 38:16, 23; 39:7, 28*). He does this not for the sake of Israel but to sanctify His great name (36:22). He does this that Israel may be given a new heart and a new spirit (36:26,27). He does this that the nations may know

that He sanctifies Israel, and that He will be in the midst of them forevermore (37:28).

When Is This Battle Or War To Take Place?

We have seen that it will be in "the latter years" (Ezekiel 38:8). It must take place after Israel, or a substantial portion of Israel, is restored to their own land. We can see now that this could not have taken place before Israel was born again as a nation on May 14, 1948.

The New Scofield Reference Bible states in a footnote on Ezekiel 38:2, "The entire prophecy belongs to the yet future day of the LORD." This same Bible identifies the day of the Lord as being that period of time when the LORD openly intervenes in the affairs of men. It will be inaugurated with the Rapture of the Church. It will be brought to an end by the judgment of the great white throne (see footnote in this Bible on Joel 1:15).

Most prophetic students are agreed that this battle will take place during the first half of the Tribulation.

The Reverend Charles L. Pack in his booklet, "When The Russian Bear Meets the Lion of Judah" (His booklet can be ordered for \$1.00 from the Southwest Radio Church, Box 1144, Oklahoma City, Okla.) states, "The Russian invasion of Israel must occur at least seven years before the Antichrist sets himself up as a god in the rebuilt temple." Brother Pack bases his reasoning largely on Ezekiel 39:9, "And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years." He reasons that the Jews cannot burn the weapons that they have captured from the Russians during the Tribulation because they will be in Petra most of that time.

William L. Hull, in his book *Israel: Key to Prophecy* states, "It has been stated already that the time of the fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy is to be in the latter days of the latter years. It is to be when Israel has been gathered back to her own land. Further, it is to be at a time when Israel will be at peace and dwelling safely. This latter fact proves that it cannot be at the end of the Tribulation period for the last half of the Tri-

bulation will the time of Jacob's trouble, when Israel will suffer more than at any time in her history. It cannot be at the beginning or in the middle of the Tribulation for we are told that Israel will burn the weapons of war (scrap and melt down the metal of Russian war machines) for seven years following the Russian defeat. Israel will certainly not have an opportunity to burn Russian weapons in the last half of the seven year Tribulation period.

"We are thus compelled to believe that Ezekiel 38 must be fulfilled at least three and a half years before the beginning of the seven-year Tribulation period."

Four things are certain: (1) The Lord is coming again; (2) the wrath of God is soon to break on the nations during the Tribulation; (3) many prophetic Scriptures are being remarkably fulfilled before our eyes; (4) we had better get ready, and stay ready to meet the Lord.

The Battle of Armageddon

In our book *Seventy Scriptural Signs That Indicate the Soon Coming of Christ*, we state that the world's greatest natural calamity was the Yellow River flood in China in 1887 in which six million people perished. The greatest natural calamity of the 20th century was the East Pakistan cyclone in 1970 when over a million perished, but both of these awful events are as nothing when compared with the battle of Ezekiel 38 and 39, and the battle of Ezekiel 38 and 39 is as nothing when compared with Armageddon. Israel and Russia will be the two primary nations that are involved in the battle of Ezekiel 38 and 39, but all of the nations of the world will have a part in Armageddon. God is determined to gather all the nations to Armageddon and to pour out His wrath on them. "Therefore, wait upon me, saith the Lord, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy" (*Zephaniah 3:8*). The Scriptures describing Armageddon speak for themselves.

"Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it. For the indignation

of the Lord is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter. Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree. For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment. The sword of the Lord is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the Lord hath a sacrifice in Bozrah and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea. The unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness. For it is the day of the Lord's vengeance, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion" (*Isaiah 34: 1-8*).

"Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, traveling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winevat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth" (*Isaiah 63:1-6*).

"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh and it is nigh at hand: A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath

not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness. They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief. The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the Lord is great, and very terrible; and who can abide it?" (Joel 2:1-11).

"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: Thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the vats overflow; for their wickedness is great" (Joel 3:9-13).

"The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of the trumpet and

alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung" (*Zephaniah 1:14-17*).

"Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south" (*Zechariah 14:1-4*).

"And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates: And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood; which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts" (*Revelation 9:13-21*).

"And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire: and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs" (*Rev. 14:14-20*). This means that the slaughter will be so great that the blood of those killed in this battle will flow three or four feet deep from the valley of Armageddon for a distance of 160 miles.

As you have read these many Scriptures about the awfulness of Armageddon, you may have been thinking, "The outlook is certainly dark." And, you are right, but, praise God, the uplook is very bright. The uplook is as bright as the promises of God. Let me remind you that if you are a Christian, you will not have to go through the Great Tribulation, nor will you experience the horrors of Armageddon. The Church will be raptured before the Tribulation begins (*1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Thess. 5:9; Revelation 3:10*).

The Revelation Of Christ

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped

in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords" (*Rev. 19:11-16*).

When Jesus came the first time, He came as the Lamb of God to die for the sins of the world. When He comes the second time, He will come as the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

He came the first time as the man of Galilee and rode on the foal of an ass. When He comes the second time He will come as King of Kings and as Lord of Lords, and He will ride on a white charger.

He came the first time as a servant in humility. He will come the second time as a Judge with authority.

When He came the first time, He wore a crown of thorns. When He comes the second time, He will wear the royal diadem.

When He came the first time, He was beaten with rods. When He comes the second time, He will rule the nations with a rod of iron.

When He came the first time, He died on a cruel cross. When He comes the second time, He will reign on a glorious throne.

When He came the first time, His own received Him not. When He comes the second time, every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

The Millennial Reign of Christ

When Jesus comes the second time, He will set up a literal kingdom here on the earth and will reign for a thousand years (*Revelation 20:1-8*). Our a-millennial friends tell us that we are not to look for a literal millennial reign of Christ on the earth. They tell us that the millennium is mentioned just one time in the Bible, and that one place is a symbolical passage in a figurative book. What a surprise awaits the a-millennialists!

I wonder what they make of the present day happenings in Israel. These good people show their ignorance of the Bible when they say that the millennium is mentioned just one place in the Bible. It is true that the length of the millennium is given just six times in the 20th chapter of the Revelation. Far more Scriptures could be given than we have room to print in this booklet describing the literal reign of Christ on the earth. Let us look at a few of these passages.

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow into it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord” *(Isaiah 2:2-5).*

“And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord; and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall

put his hand on the cockatrice's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious" (*Isaiah 11:1-10*).

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God. Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (*Isaiah 35:1-10*).

"And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord. Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall

dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them and they shall dwell in their own land" (*Jeremiah 23:3-8*).

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (*Daniel 2:44*).

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt. And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them; And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God" (*Amos 9:13-15*).

What do all these words of the prophets mean, if they do not mean what they say? Why would God seek to confuse His people with meaningless words. If these words have no meaning, we live in a world of despair, but God says what He means, and means what He says. The Second Coming of Christ is the Blessed Hope of the believer.

A Summary of the Most Significant Events During the Millennial Reign of Christ

I. The Relationship of Christ to the Millennium

A. The millennium will be ushered in by the Second Coming of Christ (*Revelation 19:11-16*).

B. The millennium is God's kingdom in which the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself, is the King (*Daniel 2:44; 7:13, 14; Luke 1:32,33*).

C. Christ will begin His reign by judging the nations (*Matt. 25:31-46*).

D. Christ will reign in the power of the Holy Spirit (*Isaiah 11:2*).

E. Christ will reign until He has put all enemies under His feet (*1 Corinthians 15:25*).

F. Christ will reveal Himself to Israel as their Messiah (*Zechariah 13:6; 12:10-14*).

G. Christ will reveal Himself as Jehovah. "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Jehovah, to the glory of God the Father (*Philippians 2:9-11*). All angelic beings will bow before Jesus and confess that He is Jehovah. All men on the earth, Jews, Gentiles, Jehovah's Witnesses, Unitarians, modernist, blasphemers, the ungodly, the self-righteous, and all others will bow before Jesus and confess that He is Jehovah to the glory of God the Father. Satan, the demons, and all of the hosts of Hell will bow before Jesus and will confess that He is Jehovah to the glory of God the Father.

Dear readers, regardless of who you may be, rich or poor, black or white, educated or uneducated, God says that one day you will bow your knee before Jesus and will confess that He is Jehovah to the glory of God the Father. What folly to harden your heart against God and against His word. How much better to bow your knee now in grace than to be forced to bow in judgment.

II. The Holy Spirit in the Millennium

A. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit will make the wilderness fruitful (*Isaiah 32:15*).

B. The Holy Spirit is to be poured out on Israel (*Isaiah 44:3; Ezekiel 11:19,20; 39:29*).

C. The Holy Spirit is to be put within the heart of each individual Jew (*Ezekiel 36:25-27; 37:14*).

D. The Holy Spirit is to be poured out on all flesh (*Joel 2:28,29*).

III. The Millennial Reign

(Matthew 25:21; Revelation 5:10).

IV. Israel in the Millennium

A. Israel is to be regathered (dozens of references have been given throughout this booklet).

B. Israel is to be restored (*Joel 2:25*).

C. Israel is to be given the land of Canaan (dozens of

references have been given to show this).

D. When Israel recognizes that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah, the nation will be born again (*Isaiah 66:8*).

E. The nation will be born again when God pours out His Spirit on the Nation (*Isaiah 44:3; Ezekiel 11:19,20; 39:29*), and when God at that time puts His Spirit within the heart of each individual Jew (*Ezekiel 36:25-27; 37:14*).

F. God will then put into effect the new covenant with the Jews that He promised through Jeremiah (*Jeremiah 31:31-40*). The basic provisions of this unconditional covenant of grace with the Jews are:

1. The impartation of A NEW MIND AND HEART (*Ezek. 36:26*).

2. Restoration to the favor and blessing of God (*Hosea 2:19,20; Isaiah 61:9*).

3. Forgiveness of sins (*Jer. 31:34*).

4. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit (*Ezekiel 36:27*).

5. Israel will reap great material blessings (*Jer. 32:41; Ezek. 34:25-27*).

V. The City of Jerusalem in the Millennium

A. Jerusalem will be the center of the millennial earth (*Isaiah 2:2-4*).

B. Jerusalem will be the center of the kingdom rule (*Jer. 3:17*).

C. It will become a glorious city (*Isa. 66:10-14*).

D. It will be a center of worship (*Joel 3:17*).

E. It will exist from generation to generation (*Joel 3:20*).

VI. The Land of Palestine in the Millennium

A. Palestine will be the inheritance of Israel (*Ezekiel 36:8,12*).

B. The land will be greatly enlarged (*Obadiah 17-21*).

C. Palestine will become beautiful for situation (*Psalms 48:2*).

D. There will be renewed fertility and productivity in the land (*Isa. 35:1-7*).

E. There will be an abundance of rainfall (*Isaiah 30:23-25*).

F. The waste cities are to be built and inhabited (*Amos 9:11-14*).

VII. Other Things That Will Characterize the Millennium

A. The kingdom will be characterized by righteous-

ness (*Isa. 60:21*).

B. There will be national and individual peace (*Isa. 2:4; 11:6-9; Isa. 54:13*).

C. Fullness of joy will abound (*Isa. 12:3-6; 14:7,8; 30:29*).

D. The deaf shall hear and the blind shall see (*Isa. 29:18-23; 35:5*).

E. The lame man shall leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing (*Isa. 35:6*).

F. Streams will break out in the desert (*Isa. 35:6*).

G. The land will be holy (*Ezek. 43:7-12; 45:1; Zeph. 3:11*).

H. The city (Jerusalem) will be holy (*Isa. 4:3,4; 52:1; Joel 3:17*).

I. The people will be holy (*Isa. 62:12*), and righteous (*Ezek. 37:23,24; Zechariah 14:20,21*).

J. The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord (*Habakkuk 2:14*).

Man's Program Versus God's Purpose

God has said, "I will make the place of my feet glorious" (*Isaiah 60:13*). Through the centuries man has striven to bring about a utopia on the earth. He talks of doing away with war, and of bringing an everlasting peace. He wants to bring in the Kingdom of God. The problem is that he wants to have a kingdom without a King.

In the 19th century and in the first half of the 20th century man believed that through education he could make this old world a fit place in which to live. The communists believe that they can solve the world's problems through science.

But now in the last half of the 20th century man has turned from hope to despair. Thinking people realize that civilization is like a dive bomber that is in a tail spin. Unless God intervenes in a supernatural way, we have passed the point of no return. Winston Churchill said shortly before his death, "Our problems are beyond us. We are a generation staggering around the rim of hell."

All of a sudden we have invented the science of ecology to save us from air pollution and water pollution. Our cities are being destroyed and our farm land is being

ruined. This explains why we are having a student revolution. They see and sense the hopelessness and folly of man lifting himself by his own boot straps. There is no hope for the natural man until he repents and begins to discover the ways of God. Though the natural man may stand on the brink of despair, the Christian stands at the break of a new day. His hope is in the only true and living God, in the sovereign God, in the Almighty God who works all things after the counsel of His own will (*Ephesians 1:11*). The Christian is looking up, not down. He knows that his path is as a shining light that shines more and more unto a perfect day (*Proverbs 4:18*).

The New Heaven: The New Earth and the New Jerusalem

Does the millennial reign of Christ end all? Ah, no! We step out of time into eternity. We are a part of the eternal plan and program of God. Such a philosophy as this gives meaning to life. Read the description of the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21 and 22. Thank God that there is a day coming in which "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes: and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (*Rev. 21:4*).

And thank God for the wonderful invitation that He gives to all men. "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (*Rev. 22:17*).

What Are We To Do?

Jesus tells us, "While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept" (*Matt. 25:5*). The Church of Jesus Christ is asleep in this hour of earth's Gethsemane. The Apostle Paul warns, "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to wake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light" (*Romans 13:11,12*).

We Must Get Ready Ourselves

Jesus warns, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (*Matt. 24:44*). There is but one way that any person can be ready to meet Christ when He comes, and that is by being born again by the Spirit of God (*John 3:3,5,7*). There is but one way that any person can be prepared to meet God, and that is by being reconciled to Him through the death of His Son (*Rom. 5:10; II Cor. 5:18*). There is but one way from earth to heaven and that is through the Lord Jesus Christ (*John 14:6; Acts 4:12*). The Church cannot save; good works cannot save; morality cannot save; religion cannot save. Only Christ can save (*Matt. 1:21; Luke 19:10*).

Before you can be saved, you must recognize that you are lost and undone, without God and without hope (*Isaiah 64:6; Rom. 3:10,23; Eph. 2:1-3, 12*). You must believe the Gospel that Christ died for your sins, that He was buried, and that He arose again on the third day (*I Cor. 15:1-4*). You must get beyond an intellectual head belief to a heart faith that will change and transform you into a new creature in Christ (*Rom. 10:9,10; II Cor. 5:21*). Read the Gospel of John; study the book of Romans. Dozens of good Gospel booklets have been written to tell you how to be saved. Write to the publishers for a free copy of "*The Living God*," or "*A Word in Season*." Do not be led astray by false prophets in the church or out of it.

Professing Christians Must Get Ready

Spiritually-minded denominational leaders estimate that ninety percent of church members never have been converted. Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (*Matt. 7:21-23*). Unconverted church members must be saved in exactly the

same manner as wicked unconverted sinners. If you do not have the assurance of your salvation, read our booklet "*Blessed Assurance*."

Born-Again Christians Must Get Ready

Many born-again Christians will be ashamed before Christ when He comes the second time because they have failed to abide in Him (*1 John 2:28*). Many Christians are not ready to meet Christ because they are living for self and not for the Savior. They are living for time and not for eternity. They are living to get rather than to give. They walk in the flesh and not in the Spirit. All of their works will be burned with fire at the Judgment Seat of Christ. They themselves will be saved yet so as by fire (*1 Cor. 3:11-15*).

The Church Must Get Ready To Meet Her Lord

The Church (all born-again Christians) is the body and bride of Christ. The bride is now espoused to Christ. The wedding will take place when Christ comes the second time. The Church must make herself ready for the wedding.

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready" (*Rev. 19:7*). Think of the embarrassment of the bride who has stained garments at her wedding. Think of the grief of the Bridegroom who will come and find his bride unprepared.

Jewish People All Over the World Must Prepare To Meet Their Messiah

Please permit me in this section to address a personal word to my Jewish friends wherever they may be found. Dear friend, you are the chosen people of God. God has not forsaken you, even though you as a people have had to suffer much during the past two thousand years. You are the apple of God's eye (*Deuteronomy 32:10*). Your Bible

says, "As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: so Jehovah alone did lead him (has led you)" (*Deuteronomy 32:11*).

In the closing moments of this dispensation God wants to snatch you as a brand from the burning, and He will do this if you will only hearken to Him. He has loved you with an everlasting love (*Jeremiah 31:3*). I plead with you now, not to harden your heart to turn from the Lord. Read with me the 95th Psalm:

"O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: Unto whom I sware in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest."

Your God and my God is a God of mercy, but He is also a God of wrath. He is a God of love, but since He is a holy God, He must punish sin. If God overlooked sin, He would not be holy. God loves the sinner, but hates his sin.

Let's talk straight from the shoulder. I can readily understand why many Jewish people have a hatred for those who take the name of Christ. It is because they have suffered so much at the hands of professing Christians. But, dear friends, what you do not understand is this: most people who take the name of Christ are not Christians. They are the part of a Satanic system that is utterly opposed to true Christianity. It should be true that every true Christian is a friend of the Jewish people. I regret that this has not always been true in the past, and perhaps it is not true in every instance now. However, you must not let the folly of others keep you from the truth.

What do you have to gain by continuing to hold enmity in your heart against Christ?

The Bible says "that blindness in part is happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in" (*Romans 11:25*). Jesus said, "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (*Luke 21:24*). You know as well as I do that for the first time in nearly 2,000 years, the city of Jerusalem is in Jewish hands. It would, therefore, be easy for us to jump to the conclusion that the times of the Gentile have ended, but such is not the case.

The whole world in general, and the Jewish people in particular, are soon to go into that awful seven-year period of tribulation that is described in detail in both the Old and New Testaments. During this period the city of Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles for three and a half years. At the end of the three and one half years the time of the Gentiles will be brought to an end.

Dear friend, why speculate about these things? Why argue with God? The wise thing is to get in touch and in tune with God so that you will escape the time of His wrath that is soon to be poured out on the earth. Every detail of prophecy that God said would be fulfilled has been fulfilled and is being fulfilled in a remarkable way. This should convince you that the prophetic Scriptures are true.

Did you know that a greater percentage of Jewish people have turned to Christ than any other nation or race? Through the centuries thousands of Jewish people have been convinced that the Lord Jesus Christ is their Messiah by a study of the 53rd chapter of Isaiah, and by a study of Daniel 9:24-27. Let me remind you that truth has nothing to fear from the light. You had better stop and think on that statement for a while. Since truth has nothing to fear from the light, why don't you read the New Testament with an honest heart and with an open mind? Thousands of Jewish people have discovered that Jesus Christ is their Messiah through reading the New Testament. If you will write to me, I will send you a free copy of "Would I? Would You?" that gives the testimony of 16 Jewish people who discovered that Jesus is their Messiah. If you will ask me for a copy of the New Testament, I will be glad to send a free copy to you. Since hundreds of Christians read and study your Bible all of the time,

what have you to lose by taking the time to read a copy of the New Testament? Why don't you ask yourself this question, "Why am I afraid to do this?"

In this booklet we have seen that the events of history are marching irrevocably on. Each of us will soon stand at the judgment bar of Almighty God. We must account to Him for our actions. We must account to Him for what we have done with His Son. I plead with you now to make an honest unbiased study of the claims of Christ. When you have done this, you are free to reject Him, but what folly to reject Him until you have done this. All men, both Jews and Gentiles, are saved in exactly the same way. They are saved by believing the Gospel. The Apostle Paul states the Gospel for us in this manner, "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures: And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" (*1 Corinthians 15:1-4*).

The Gospel is the Good News that Jesus Christ, God's Son, died on the Cross for our sins, that He was buried, and that He was raised from the dead on the third day. When we by faith invite this living Christ to come into our heart, He forgives our sins, gives us everlasting life, fills our heart with peace and joy, and makes us to be a child of God. These are just a few of the wonderful things that happen to any person who will invite Christ to come into his heart. "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (*Rev. 3:20*).

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live" (*Deuteronomy 30:19*).

Most of the Jewish people in the world are soon to enter the "time of Jacob's trouble" (*Jeremiah 30:7*). How great will be their suffering for seven years!

Dear friend, you can escape that awful time by turning to Christ. All who believe in Him will be supernaturally

caught up into Heaven before that terrible time begins (*1 Thess. 4:13-18*). Some who read this booklet, and who have considered my earnest plea, will look back with regret when they are in the midst of the Great Tribulation, and they will wish then that they had turned to the Savior.

Yes, and praise God, many others who read this booklet will turn to the Savior, and when we stand together in the presence of our Lord, they will praise Him that this booklet was placed in their hands.

We Must Get Others Ready

If you are saved, God wants to use you to bring others to Christ (*Mark 1:17*). He wants you to be a witness for Christ (*Acts 1:8*). He wants to use you to snatch others as brands from the burning (*Amos 4:11, Jude 23*). It is the will of God for every Christian to have a vital part in world evangelism. More than two-thirds of the world's three billion, 500 million people have never heard the Gospel of Christ. A billion and a half young people in the world have never been evangelized. Three million cities, towns, and villages in the world do not have a resident Gospel witness for Christ. Two thousand tribes do not have any of the Word of God in their own language. What are you doing to obey the command of Christ to get the Gospel to these? You are responsible, and will be held accountable (*Prov. 24:10-12*).

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (*Rev. 3:20*).

"The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely" (*Rev. 22:17*).

"He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen" (*Rev. 22:20, 21*).

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